



CALIFORNIA LEGACY PROJECT
SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION

SACRAMENTO VALLEY WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP IN CHICO
APRIL 8 - 9, 2003

INTERIM REPORT
AUGUST 2003



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Spotlight on Conservation* workshop series is based on the premise that the best way to develop a statewide conservation strategy is to engage with the varied communities throughout our state to understand the unique natural and working landscapes in each bioregion. The California Legacy Project completed nine bioregional workshops across the State in 2002 – 2003. These workshops will provide a better understanding of the resources highly valued in the region and the strategies for conservation investment that best fit each region.

The Sacramento Valley *Spotlight on Conservation* workshop, held in Chico on April 8 - 9, 2003, was the seventh in the series of nine bioregional workshops.

As shown on the maps below, this region included portions of Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Lake, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Napa, Yolo, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, and Solano counties.

The contents of this report cover:

1. Legacy goals, workshop results, and follow-up actions,
2. A general summary of workshop highlights and events,
3. Detailed transcriptions, maps, and preliminary analysis resulting from the workshop.

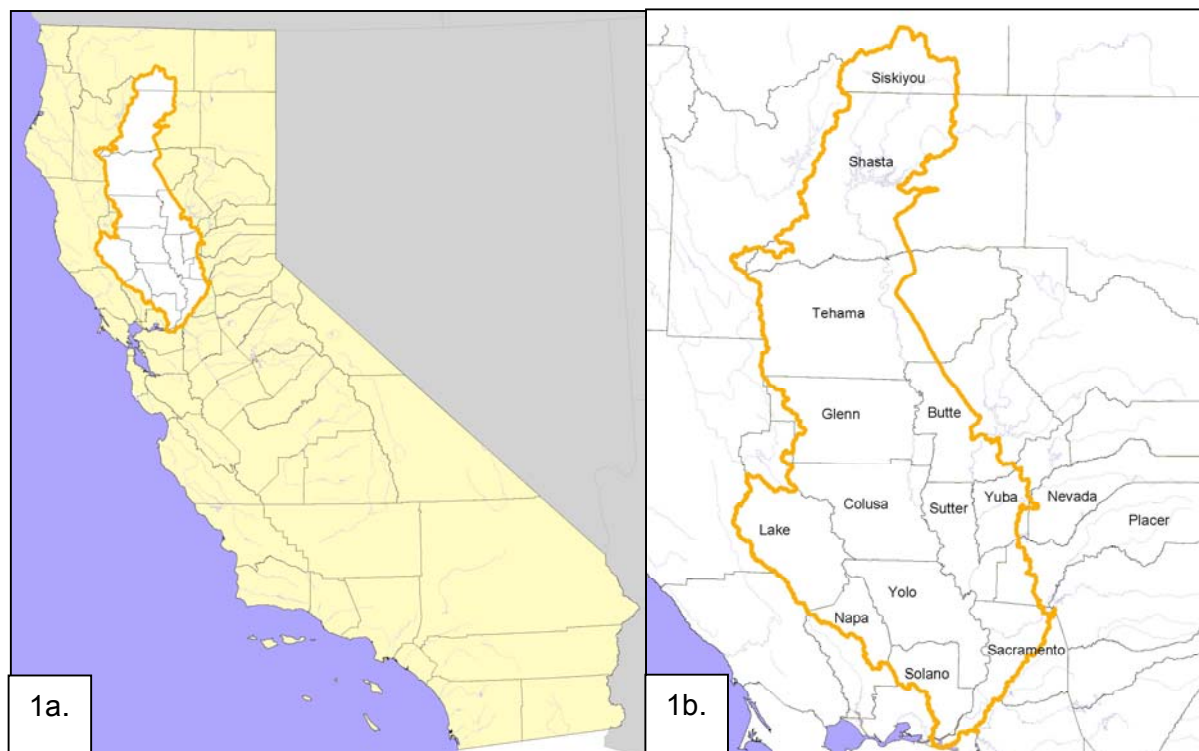


Figure 1a. California's Sacramento Valley bioregion in the context of the entire state; 1b. Detail of the Sacramento Valley.

The workshops were designed to accomplish the following goals:

1. Put a spotlight on land and water conservation opportunities and projects throughout the state;
2. Introduce the Legacy Project to regional conservation stakeholders;
3. Elicit information about existing regional conservation plans and priorities; monitoring, management and stewardship projects; and available data sets and;
4. Gain a sense of the participant's priorities for conservation including the criteria they might use for investing in conservation of various resources, and the strategies they believe are most applicable to their region and interests.

GOALS, RESULTS, AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

In support of these goals, results and follow-up actions are summarized below:

1. *Spotlight conservation:* A diverse group of people who work on and are affected by conservation had the opportunity to hear each other's views and to interact. People from different parts of the region had an opportunity to share information and think about the region and the State as a whole. To follow-up, participants can add themselves to the email list for Legacy's on-line newsletter, *The Watering Hole* [<http://legacy.ca.gov/subscribe.epl>]. Also, the Legacy Project staff distributed a participant contact list and will distribute workshop results to participants for review prior to publication.

2. *Introduce the Legacy Project:* Following an introduction, participants had the opportunity to ask substantial and challenging questions about the Legacy Project. They appreciated the interest expressed regarding their views about State conservation investment strategies. Resource Agency departments were also able to highlight their valuable work in the region at display booths and in workshop sessions.

3. *Elicit information:* Participants viewed maps of statewide and regional datasets (e.g. land cover types, publicly owned conservation lands, etc.) for a broad view of resources. Legacy staff received contacts for important local datasets and access to data sharing. Participants identified local monitoring, restoration, and stewardship projects, and conservation planning efforts. Legacy Project staff gained a better sense of places in the region that are high conservation priorities. For follow up, regional maps presented at the workshops and additional information received will be evaluated for inclusion in the web-based California Digital Conservation Atlas [http://legacy.ca.gov/new_atlas.epl]. Sharing this information with state agencies will enable them to consider existing local and regional plans and recommended regional priorities when determining statewide priorities for investment.

4. *Gain a sense of conservation criteria:* Participants generated and ranked a list of criteria for Terrestrial Biodiversity, Aquatic Biodiversity, Working Landscapes, Rural Recreation Lands, and Urban Open Space. These criteria will help guide the Legacy Project to develop data and analysis tools for public use. The criteria will also be compared with results from other regional workshops and presented to agencies and organizations that make conservation funding decisions, so that these organizations can compare the workshop-generated criteria with their existing criteria and consider "customization" opportunities based on bioregion.

Gain insight on conservation investment tools: In break-out groups, participants were asked to identify conservation strategies appropriate to their region. For follow-up, Legacy staff will review differences in sub-regional and region-to-region strategies and will attempt to determine how these differences can be taken into account in developing conservation investment strategies at the state level. In addition, Legacy will develop lists of both broadly applicable and innovative strategies, especially those that can further economic development as well as conservation.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

One of the key components of the workshop is an “Information Exchange” gallery where participants share their knowledge of the area’s conservation efforts and their opinions as to what areas should be considered regional and statewide conservation priorities. It is set up as an open house of interactive stations focused on specific conservation-related questions. Following are the results of the five “stations” set up in the Exchange.

Data available and data needs: Participants viewed Legacy’s existing regional and statewide maps depicting natural resources datasets, and land ownership and land use boundaries. Thirteen datasets previously unrecorded by the Legacy Project were brought to our attention, such as public access and recreation lands on the mainstem of the Sacramento River. One area on our map was marked as being in need of correction. Data available will help inform the regional and local database survey and will be added to California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES) [<http://ceres.ca.gov>].

Existing and emerging conservation planning efforts: Of the 32 conservation efforts identified, half addressed more than one type of resource. Both Terrestrial Biodiversity and Working Landscapes were addressed by approximately half of the plans. Roughly 40% of the plans addressed Aquatic Biodiversity, about 30% of the plans addressed Rural Recreation, and nearly 19% addressed Urban Open Space. The most commonly cited goals of the identified efforts were ecosystem restoration, weed management, and data development. This input will be compiled into

regional maps of existing and emerging conservation plans and areas of conservation interest. These maps will be evaluated before possible inclusion in the Legacy Project’s web-based Digital Conservation Atlas.

Private land stewardship: Participants were asked to identify sites where private stewardship conservation projects are in place and have demonstrated success. Six projects were noted. Three of those addressed fire threats, and two projects focused on agricultural practices that are wildlife friendly or ecologically beneficial.

Regional conservation priorities: Improved watershed management and planning and land protection were most often highlighted as important regional issues. Of the 102 priority locations identified, the foothills of Butte County, tributaries to the Sacramento River in Shasta county, Sutter Buttes, and the Mill Creek/ Ishi Wilderness areas received the greatest attention.

Statewide conservation priorities: The majority of locations identified as statewide priorities were within the Sacramento Valley, indicating that participants believe conservation priorities in their region are as deserving of attention and funding as other locations throughout the state. Two features that received particular attention were the Sacramento River and the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta. On a statewide basis, watershed conservation issues and protection of fertile farmland for agriculture were cited as important concerns.

I. INTRODUCTION

This Interim Report is a summary of the California Legacy Project Spotlight on Conservation workshop held in Chico for the Sacramento Valley bioregion. This workshop was the seventh in a series of nine workshops held throughout the State in 2002-2003. Participating counties included Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Lake, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Napa, Yolo, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, and Solano. The Interim Report is a record of the workshop results and provides some preliminary analysis.

"The California Legacy Project will assist everyone who knows the land and is working to save it. We're making an unprecedented effort to reach out to those who care about the future of California's natural resources. I invite you to get involved in this exciting effort to work with us on the state-of-the-art tools and conservation strategies that will help protect and restore California's natural resources and working landscapes."

**-Mary D. Nichols
Secretary for Resources**

In an effort to develop California's first-ever statewide resources conservation strategy, the California Legacy Project is working with Resources Agency state departments, boards, commissions and conservancies, CALEPA departments, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and federal and nonprofit conservation partners. The Project seeks the input of stakeholders affected by conservation investment, as well as of advocates for conservation investment. The Legacy Project will create analytical tools that can help state and federal agencies; local and regional governments; and public, non-profit, and private groups assess resource values and risks, and conservation opportunities for large landscape areas in each of the state's major bioregions. Such evaluations guide decision-makers to more effective and strategic allocations of funds.

The California Legacy Project includes a wide range of perspectives and incorporates agency and public participation at all levels of its work. It builds on existing data and conservation efforts, facilitating partnerships in data improvement and conservation actions. Working together with a host of partners, the Project helps to ensure a legacy of natural resources and working landscapes for California's future.

II. SESSION RESULTS

OVERVIEW OF SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

Nearly ninety people attended the Sacramento Valley workshop. All workshop invitees were recommended to Legacy staff as being knowledgeable about and interested in regional conservation and natural resource issues. In extending invitations, we attempted to be thorough and to include a broad spectrum of viewpoints and expertise. However, we recognize that our participant group still represents a relatively small, self-selected,

focus group. Thus, we recognize that the recorded responses from this workshop are not representative of the state or region, or natural resources professionals as a whole.

The workshops are designed for one and a half days and have two distinct, but equally important, components: (1) a series of facilitated discussions in large and small groups, and (2) an "Information Exchange," set up in an open house format, where

participants view and react to an extensive gallery of maps and data and provide Legacy with information on conservation-related questions.

Day One begins with a welcome, a presentation about the Legacy Project, and a presentation about other current planning efforts in the region. This is intended to set the context for follow-up conversations. Participants then discuss regional conservation issues in a facilitated, large group session. Day One ends with a two-hour opportunity to engage in the “Information Exchange” and provide detailed input.

Day Two begins with small break-out groups discussing the type of criteria they would use in deciding how to invest in

conservation of five resource types (Terrestrial Biodiversity, Aquatic Biodiversity, Working Lands, Rural Recreation, and Urban Open Space). Once the small groups identify criteria, the large group then ranks each one from the *most important* to *least important*. In the afternoon, following a brief presentation on Legacy’s California Digital Conservation Atlas, participants convene in small groups for discussions of strategies that are applicable to resource conservation in their region. Participants then return to large group for reports back on the results of the small group sessions and a summary presentation highlighting results of the workshop. Finally, the workshops end with a closing address by an official from the Resource Agency. For a detailed Workshop Agenda see Appendix A.

WORKSHOP OPENING

To open the workshop, participants were welcomed by the Honorable Maureen Kirk, Mayor, City of Chico. Kirk noted the importance of resource conservation to residents of Chico, and highlighted some of the city’s efforts to balance economic and infrastructure concerns with environmental needs. Following Kirk’s comments, Stacy Cepello, Senior Environmental Scientist, California Department of Water Resources and Luree Stetson, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Programs, California Resources Agency, extended welcomes.

Next, Diana Jacobs, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Science Advisor, California Department of Fish & Game, described the relationships between CALFED and the Legacy Project. Jacobs explained that CALFED is a state and federal partnership focused on the long-standing problems of water management in the San Francisco Bay/ Sacramento River-San Joaquin River Delta area. CALFED is now administered by a new state agency, the California Bay Delta Authority. Resource management goals include water supply reliability, water quality, ecosystem restoration, and Delta levee system

integrity. The geographic scope of the CALFED Program includes watersheds primarily within the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, San Francisco and Suisun bays, and much of the South Coast. CALFED invests in collaborative regional projects that achieve local benefits while helping CALFED achieve its overall goals, such as partnerships at the watershed level, including restoration projects and water supply reliability improvements. Jacobs highlighted several such partnerships in the Sacramento Valley: the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum, Sacramento Valley Water Management Partnership, and the Sacramento Valley Agreement.

The Legacy Project has a statewide scope and a broad definition of conservation including preservation and enhancement of not only terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, but also urban open space, recreational opportunities, and working landscapes. Unlike the CALFED Program, the Legacy Project does not allocate funds for projects. Rather, Legacy was created to improve the State’s planning and investment decisions.

REGIONAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As part of the first day of the workshop, participants were asked to identify some of the most pressing issues for conservation in the Sacramento Valley, including unique regional opportunities and challenges.

Participants detailed a host of regional challenges including: population growth; poorly planned sprawl development; low farm commodity prices; loss of agricultural infrastructure; and conflicts between needs for endangered species habitat needs and agricultural land. Opportunities to improve upon these conditions were also presented, including: regional planning and smart growth, productive agricultural land; agricultural tourism; habitat conservation on agricultural lands, and Safe Harbor agreements.

The lists of the opportunities and challenges identified by the workshop participants follow. These are not in order of priority, nor are they intended to be exhaustive lists of plans, possible opportunities, and constraints; rather these lists document the projects and ideas that were foremost in participants' minds at the start of the workshop. Bold print denotes those items that seemed especially significant for the Sacramento Valley Region.

CHALLENGES, RISKS, THREATS

1. **Aggressive water sales and transfers**
2. More dams/ diversions
3. Metering agricultural and urban water use
4. Increase in regulation
5. Permitting requirements
6. Fear of Endangered Species Act regulation
7. Endangered species habitat next to agricultural land
8. **Critical habitat designation**
9. Habitat destruction
10. Environmental regulations that impede conservation
11. Agriculture exemptions in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
12. Regulation of non-point source pollution
13. Absentee ownership

14. Population growth
15. Lack of planning
16. **Need better infrastructure planning**
17. Over-development, sprawl and ranchettes
18. Parcels being subdivided out of production
19. **Loss of agriculture infrastructure**
20. **Globalization of agriculture industry -- increased regulatory pressure**
21. Underpricing of agricultural commodities
22. Degradation of agriculture land
23. Loss of agriculture land
24. **Loss of revenue for rural areas**
25. Inadequate incentive programs for farm management
26. Loss of Williamson Act funds
27. Lack of money for management or monitoring
28. Shifting monetary burden from state to local government/ community to fund conservation
29. Local conduits for funds and accountability
30. In-lieu fees/ loss of tax dollars
31. Loss of private property rights
32. Liability insurance needs
33. Vandalism and trespass of neighboring lands
34. Lack of publicly owned conservation land
35. Distrust
36. Private landowners fear of information sharing
37. State withholding information on species and habitat
38. Lack of interagency cooperation
39. **Lack of political power**
40. Different goals of preservation vs. conservation, including economic viability
41. Inadequate balancing of conservation with economic needs
42. **Educate city dwellers as they move to rural areas**
43. Appropriate and effective control of vectors and disease
44. End of petroleum-based economy
45. **Increase challenge of Off Highway Vehicle usage**
46. Loss of quality of life
47. Global warming

OPPORTUNITIES

1. More public access on land
2. Focus conservation money locally (public and private)
3. Focus on more funding for conservation
4. Prop 50/ other funding available
5. Private landowner coordination
- 6. Safe Harbor agreements**
- 7. Natural flow regime management**
8. Native fish conservation
9. Strategic planning for invasive weeds
10. Weed control though machine maintenance
11. Prescribed burning
- 12. Vegetation management and control burning**
13. Riparian re-vegetation opportunities
- 14. Good soil/ lots of water**
15. Precipitation
16. Survival of family farm
- 17. Conversion of agricultural products -- higher economic value**
18. Wildlife-friendly farming
19. Sustainable livestock programs
20. Economically sustainable agricultural land
- 21. Compatible land use of rice, wetland, etc.**
- 22. Value of rice lands: multiple use**
- 23. Harvesting native plants**
- 24. Agricultural tourism**
25. Eco-tourism
26. Water related tourism
27. Passive and active recreation
28. Economic viability of open space management
29. Still undeveloped land
30. Intact land and water resources
31. Improving communication
32. Research and education
33. Smart growth
34. Urban/industrial development
35. Development of sustainable energy
36. Database development
37. Local involvement in process
38. Regional planning
39. Creative urban development

FIRST SMALL GROUP SESSION: IDENTIFYING AND WEIGHTING REGIONAL CONSERVATION CRITERIA

On the morning of the second day, small breakout groups were formed and charged with the following task:

“Identify characteristics or elements (called criteria) of a resource that makes it desirable or valuable to conserve”

Alternatively, participants could identify characteristics or elements that one might use to avoid investing in conservation (such as areas of high urban value).

Each group identified conservation criteria for one of six resource categories: Terrestrial Biodiversity, Aquatic Biodiversity, Working Landscapes: Farming, Working Landscaped: Grazing, Urban Open Space, and Rural Recreation. Once the small group identified criteria, the large group ranked all of the criteria from highest to lowest priority. For a detailed explanation of the ranking process, see Appendix B.

The charts that follow display the complete list of criteria selected by the small breakout groups for each resource topic, and their relative level of priority as determined by the full group.

The charts are set up as follows: The first column lists the criteria in order of relative importance (from highest to lowest) as ranked by all workshop participants. The second column shows a percent rank for each criterion as compared to the highest-scoring criterion. The third column shows the general level of importance the entire group placed on the each criterion. The fourth column shows the average score received by each criterion, with lower values representing higher value rankings. The last column consists of graphs depicting the frequency and distribution of scores.

Although the graphs are small, ranking patterns can be seen.

It is important to note that the goal of this exercise was to observe where there was agreement or disagreement about important criteria. The scores are not the result of a consensus process; rather, they reflect the range of opinions of the participants at the workshop. Additionally, while high scores indicate general agreement that a criterion is important, medium or low scores do not mean that a criterion is unimportant; lower scores simply indicate a lower relative placement in the rankings by this participant group. A graph depicting the distribution of participants' interests or affiliations follows on the next page.

These criteria will not be used as final recommendations for conservation investment purposes. Rather, in reviewing the Criteria session results, the Legacy Project hopes to observe general patterns, unique discussion outcomes, and commonalities between and among regions. The criteria that are widely agreed upon by participants will guide the Legacy Project in developing data, maps, and analysis tools for public use. This information will also be combined with results from other regional workshops and provided to conservation decision makers for their consideration. Furthermore, the criteria emerging from the breakout groups in each region can be used by the departments to compare with the criteria they currently apply in their decision-making processes and evaluate if major discrepancies exist between those suggested by stakeholders and existing departmental criteria.

INTERESTS REPRESENTED BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY WORKSHOP CRITERIA WEIGHTING SESSION

Participants in the criteria ranking session were asked to report their interests or affiliations. Collecting this information enabled us to get a sense of the proportional representation by different interest categories (and allows consideration of how this distribution could have influenced the criteria ranking results).

Participants reported their interests by selecting from a list of possible “interest categories” on each criteria-ranking ballot. On the chart below, note that the percentages of voters add up to greater than 100% because voters were allowed to identify with more than one interest category. (For example, a participant could identify as representing both “Farming” and “Local Government” interests.)

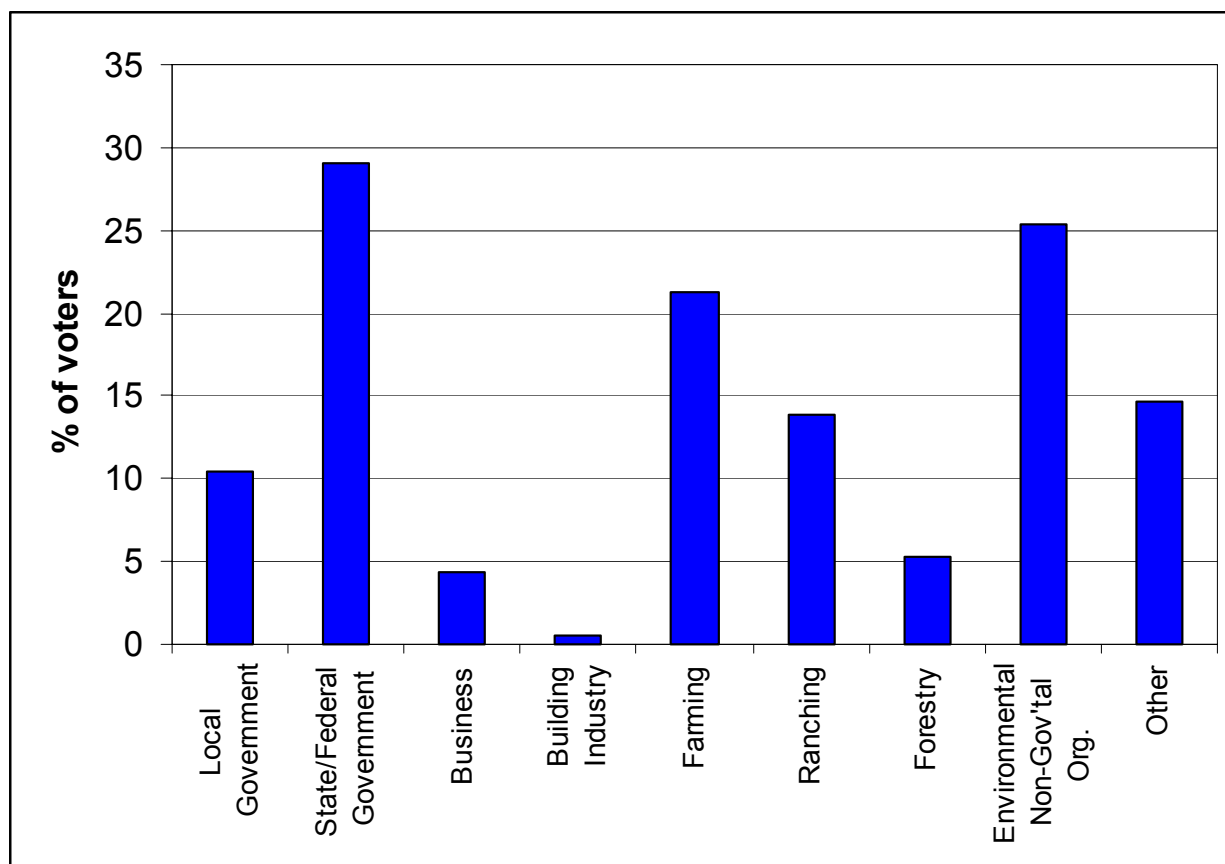


Figure 2. Percentages of Participants Representing Various Interest Categories in the Sacramento Valley Workshop Criteria Weighting Session¹

¹ The percentages of representation by interest category in this chart represent average percentages across six criteria ranking votes. Participants ranked criteria for six resource types (Terrestrial Biodiversity, Aquatic Biodiversity, Working Lands – Farming, etc.) and reported their interest categories on each ballot. As a result of participants leaving or entering the voting sessions and variation in how individuals reported their interests, there was some variation in the percentages of representation between votes. However, the variation was relatively small, and the average percentages across all six resource-type votes adequately represent the distribution of participants in this exercise.

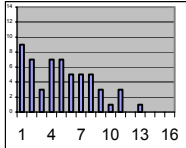
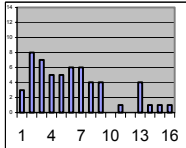
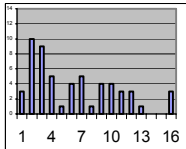
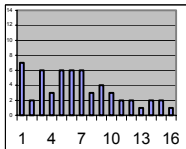
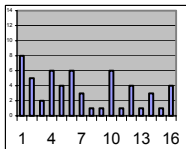
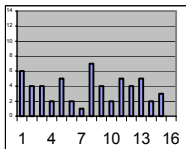
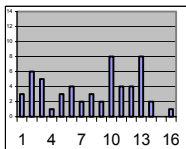
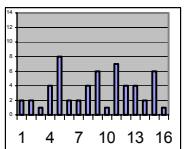
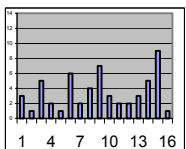
DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF CRITERIA WEIGHTING

TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY

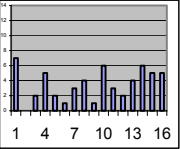
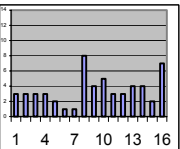
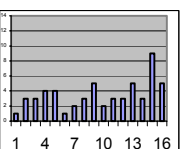
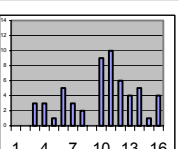
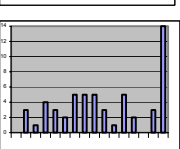
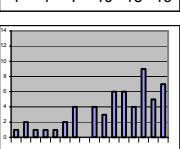
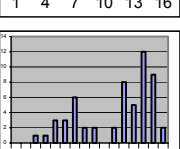
The criteria that received high priority ratings were 1. “Large natural areas: areas surrounded by lands with similar conservation goals; long-term ecological viability of project,” 2. “Lands with multiple open space objectives: for example, farmlands with habitat values (e.g., hedgerows); rural recreation; environmental justice; groundwater recharge; forests as water supply areas; etc.” 3. “Wildlife corridors, including: riparian; greenway expansions,” 4. “Rare habitat areas: native grasses; old growth forests; wetlands; riparian areas,” 5. “Restorability to functioning habitat: for native and endangered and threatened species; for water supply.” Besides considering the overall “High”, “Medium” and “Low” rankings, the distribution of scores can demonstrate cases where participants were in strong agreement about a criterion’s importance, or where there was disagreement. There was a high level of agreement that the top three criteria were important, with very few participants assigning low scores to these criteria. There was also very strong agreement that the two lowest ranking criteria were relatively low priority considerations.

One high-ranking criterion, “Lands with multiple open space objectives” is noteworthy. In most regions across the state, biological and ecological criteria tended to rank highest, especially when considering biodiversity conservation, and “multiple use” criteria generally only ranked high for recreation and working lands conservation. The high-ranking given to “Lands with multiple open space objectives” by Sacramento Valley participants may illustrate the extent to which the Valley’s residents are aware of issues of maintaining farmland and agricultural viability as well as water supply issues. It may also suggest that participants believe that their agricultural economy and landscape can be compatible with biodiversity conservation.

Table 1a. Criteria for Terrestrial Biodiversity Conservation

Objective: Terrestrial Biodiversity				
Criteria	% of max. score	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores High <=> Low
Large natural areas: areas surrounded by lands with similar conservation goals; long-term ecological viability of project	100%	HIGH	5.05	
Lands with multiple open space objectives: for example, farmlands with habitat values (e.g., hedgerows); rural recreation; environmental justice; groundwater recharge; forests as water supply areas; etc.	94%	HIGH	6.05	
Wildlife corridors, including: riparian; greenway expansions	93%	HIGH	6.21	
Rare habitat areas: native grasses; old growth forests; wetlands; riparian areas	91%	HIGH	6.64	
Restorability to functioning habitat: for native and endangered and threatened species; for water supply	88%	HIGH	7.05	
Areas with habitat in good condition: full suite of native species	85%	MED	7.70	
Places where investment has already been made: plans are on the shelf; current planning efforts underway; active implementation; availability of current & adequate data; adds acreage to places already protected; long-term financial viability & support	83%	MED	8.02	
Regions with supportive government/ community	78%	MED	8.89	
Areas significant for migratory species	76%	MED	9.18	

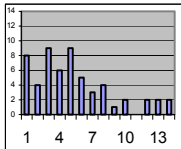
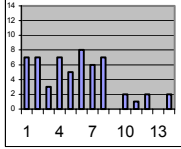
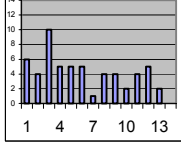
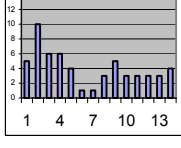
Objective: Terrestrial Biodiversity Cont'd

Criteria	% of max. score	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores High ↔ Low
Work on private lands: support landowners in doing projects they want to do	75%	MED	9.27	
Oak and hardwood habitats: as land management indicators	75%	MED	9.32	
Lands in proximity to urban areas	72%	LOW	9.86	
Areas with high public interest	71%	LOW	10.11	
Presence of species at risk, not necessarily listed, viable population	70%	LOW	10.14	
Areas with low risk of urban development	64%	LOW	11.18	
Work on public lands: improve resource management	64%	LOW	11.32	

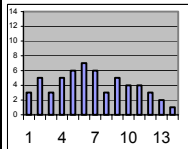
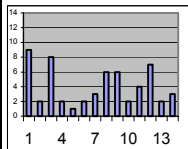
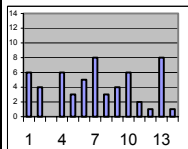
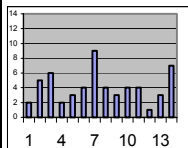
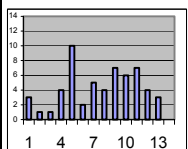
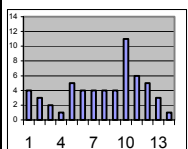
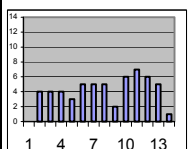
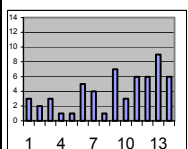
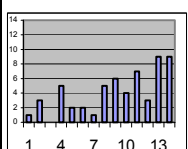
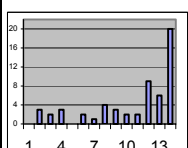
AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY

The criteria that received high priority ratings were 1. “High level of threat to resource,” 2. “Multiple benefits in watershed providing increased water resource potential,” 3. “Species diversity and density,” and 4. “Habitat connectivity and size.” Of these, there was an especially high level of agreement about the importance of the top two criteria. These priorities suggest that participants believe it is important both to preserve the best remaining examples of aquatic ecosystems as well as those that are most imminently threatened. All of the criteria based on feasibility or implementation considerations (rather than on biological characteristics) received either low or medium rankings. “Degree of feasibility and long-term maintenance needs (social, biological, economic)” and “Degree of coordination with existing conservation planning and implementation, including local general plans” received medium rankings, and “Areas with well-established monitoring protocols, baseline data, and standardized methodology for data analysis” received a low ranking. There was strong agreement that all of the low ranking criteria were relatively low priority considerations.

Table 1b. Criteria for Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation

Objective: Aquatic Biodiversity				
Criteria	% of max. score	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores High <=> Low
High level of threat to resource	100%	HIGH	5.30	
Multiple benefits in watershed providing increased water resource potential [e.g., water storage, quality, recreation, habitat, flood protection, etc.]	99%	HIGH	5.47	
Species diversity and density	95%	HIGH	6.04	
Habitat connectivity and size	93%	HIGH	6.37	

Objective: Aquatic Biodiversity Cont'd

Criteria	% of max. score	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores High ↔ Low
Degree of feasibility and long-term maintenance needs (social, biological, economic)	91%	MED	6.75	
Degree of coordination with existing conservation planning and implementation, including local general plans	89%	MED	7.04	
Degree of species/ habitat representation in region/ state (unique habitat types, e.g., blue valley oak)	88%	MED	7.21	
Percentage diversity of threatened/ endangered, declining, and other special status species, especially native warm-water fish species	86%	MED	7.58	
Hydrogeomorphic functions for riparian and other habitats [e.g., natural flow regime]	85%	MED	7.72	
Health of upper watershed	83%	MED	7.96	
Riparian corridors as buffers	82%	MED	8.11	
Extent of invasive species infestation/ threat (e.g., salt cedar, Arundo, submerged aquatics)	76%	LOW	9.18	
Areas with well-established monitoring protocols, baseline data, and standardized methodology for data analysis	73%	LOW	9.58	
Degree to which adverse human health effects might occur (vector threat)	66%	LOW	10.70	

WORKING LANDSCAPES - FARMLAND

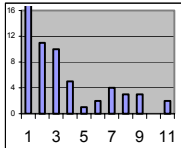
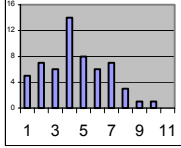
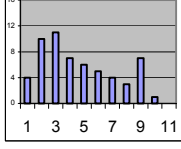
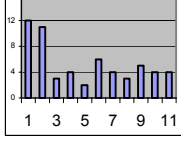
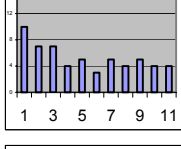
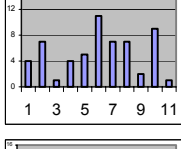
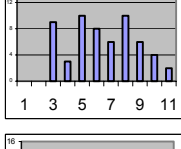
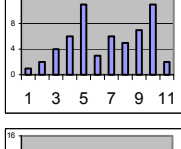
The criteria designated as high priority were: 1. “Areas that support terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, while maintaining sustainable agricultural use (including riparian zones & wildlife migration corridors),” 2. “Areas that can provide multiple objectives: floodplain or watershed protection, management, recreation, etc.,” 3. “Areas threatened by urban development and/ or have ability to buffer urban/ ag interface or to direct urban growth,” 4. “Areas that can provide sustainable and profitable farms with agricultural infrastructure,” and 5. “Areas that have prime soils (class 1, 2, or 3) and available and reliable water.” Of these, there was extremely strong agreement that the highest-ranking criteria (“Areas that support terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, while maintaining sustainable agricultural use”) was important. This suggests that participants believe that agricultural land uses can and should be compatible with biodiversity conservation. This belief is underscored by the high rank of “Multiple objectives” as well as by the fact that both agricultural considerations (such as prime soils, agricultural infrastructure, etc.) and ecological considerations (biodiversity) figured among the high-ranking criteria.

It should also be noted that there was fairly good representation by agricultural interests at the workshop (not as strong, however, as representation by governments and environmental non-governmental organizations) [Figure 2]. Therefore, although the make-up of the voter group may have resulted in a slight bias towards ecological or multiple-objective criteria, participation by a fairly strong contingent of farm interests suggests that members of this interest group also believe in the importance of additional values of agricultural land besides production values.

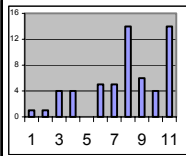
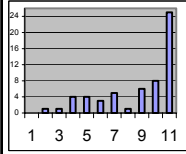
There was notable disagreement among participants about the importance of two of the medium ranking criteria: “Areas that can provide water quality benefits & replicate natural hydrology,” and “Areas with high risks (e.g., erosion, flooding, salinity problems, invasive species) that can be put to more beneficial uses or practices,” with some participants ranking these criteria high and others ranking them low. Both of these criteria suggest shifting the focus of some agricultural lands to ecological benefits. The variability in scores may demonstrate the divide between participants who are most concerned with ecological services and biodiversity versus those who are not comfortable with the idea of farmland being converted for habitat or other ecological uses.

Finally, there was strong agreement that the lowest ranking medium criterion and the two low-ranking criteria were the least important. The low scoring given to “Areas with interested, organized stakeholder community leadership, etc.” is interesting because a strong “stakeholder community” could be considered a necessary characteristic for success, rather than a characteristic that should be used to identify high priority areas for conservation from the beginning of the planning process. The low scoring given to “Areas that can help meet Federal or State regulatory requirements” may reflect the participants overall dissatisfaction with frustration with regulatory processes. The agreement about the relative unimportance of “‘heirloom’ / historic agricultural crops or landscapes” indicates that participants believe the ecological and food-production values of farmland outweigh the importance of cultural and historical values.

Table 1c. Criteria for Working Landscapes - Farmland Conservation

Objective: Working Landscapes - Farmland				
Criteria	% of max. score	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores² High ← → Low
Areas that support terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, while maintaining sustainable agricultural use (including riparian zones & wildlife migration corridors)	100%	HIGH	3.57	
Areas that can provide multiple objectives: floodplain or watershed protection, management, recreation, etc.	94%	HIGH	4.50	
Areas threatened by urban development and/ or have ability to buffer urban/ ag interface or to direct urban growth	93%	HIGH	4.66	
Areas that can provide sustainable and profitable farms with agricultural infrastructure	92%	HIGH	4.93	
Areas that have prime soils (class 1, 2, or 3) and available and reliable water	90%	HIGH	5.17	
Areas that can provide water quality benefits & replicate natural hydrology	85%	MED	6.07	
Areas that provide buffer between ag and habitat uses	82%	MED	6.47	
Areas with high risks (e.g., erosion, flooding, salinity problems, invasive species) that can be put to more beneficial uses or practices	81%	MED	6.74	
Areas with interested, organized stakeholder community leadership, etc.	78%	MED	7.22	

² Note that the scale of y-axis varies. For all of the charts except for the lowest ranking criterion, the maximum y-axis value (# of votes) is 16. For the lowest ranking criterion, the maximum y-axis value is 24.

Objective: Working Landscapes - Farmland Cont'd				
Criteria	% of max. score	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores ² High ←→ Low
Areas that can help meet State or Federal regulatory objectives (e.g., air, water quality, Endangered Species Act)	74%	LOW	7.86	
Areas that support or have "heirloom" / historic agricultural crops or landscapes	68%	LOW	8.81	



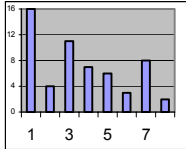
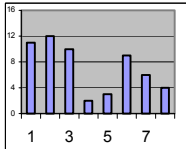
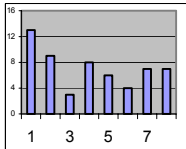
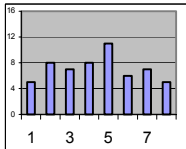
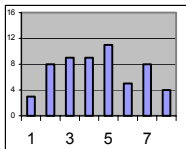
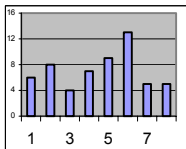
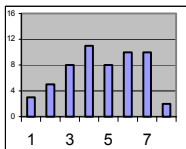
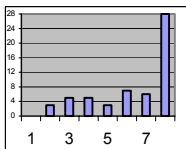
². Note that the scale of y-axis varies. For all of the charts except for the lowest ranking criterion, the maximum y-axis value (# of votes) is 16. For the lowest ranking criterion, the maximum y-axis value is 24.

WORKING LANDSCAPES - GRAZING

The criteria designated as high priority were: 1. “Areas that are operationally viable: winter/summer graze; adequate "critical mass" for size; sustainable footprint; minimal indirect urban impacts and public liability (trespass, dog presence),” 2. “Areas that address other resource objectives: threatened & endangered species; impaired waterways; co-existence with other native vegetation (oak woodlands); moderate to high fuel load potential,” 3. “Areas under imminent threat from development.” As for the Farmlands Conservation criteria, included among the high-ranking criteria were both ecological concerns (threatened & endangered species; impaired waterways; native vegetation; fuel load) and concerns specific to the operation of grazing lands (operationally viable: winter/summer graze; adequate "critical mass" for size; minimal indirect urban impacts and public liability).

The greatest agreement in the rankings was seen for “Areas that continue or reinstate historical grazing use,” with participants strongly agreeing that this is the least important of these criteria. Again, this seems to indicate that participants believe that ecological and economic viability characteristics of grazing land outweigh historical values.

Table 1d. Criteria for Working Landscapes - Grazing

Objective: Working Landscapes - Grazing				
Criteria	% of max. score	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores³
Areas that are operationally viable: winter/summer graze; adequate "critical mass" for size; sustainable footprint; minimal indirect urban impacts and public liability (trespass, dog presence)	100%	HIGH	3.60	
Areas that address other resource objectives: threatened & endangered species; impaired waterways; co-existence with other native vegetation (oak woodlands); moderate to high fuel load potential	99%	HIGH	3.79	
Areas under imminent threat from development	97%	HIGH	4.05	
Areas that are well suited to the specific conservation strategies being considered	95%	MED	4.46	
Areas where special management can address specific conditions: invasive weeds; highly erodable lands; cross-fencing where needed	95%	MED	4.47	
Areas with moderate-high grazing value (productivity; carry capacity; provides summer graze)	94%	MED	4.56	
Areas with adequate water resources	94%	MED	4.68	
Areas that continue or reinstate historical grazing use	83%	LOW	6.39	

² Note that the scale of y-axis varies. For all of the charts except for the lowest ranking criterion, the maximum y-axis value (# of votes) is 16. For the lowest ranking criterion, the maximum y-axis value is 28.

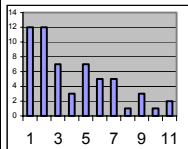
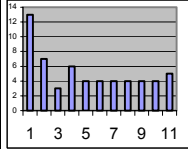
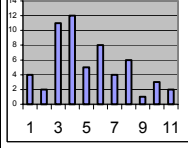
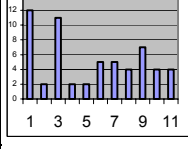
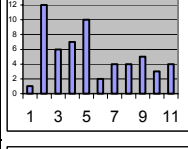
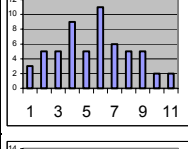
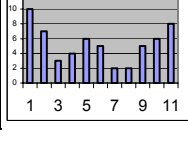
URBAN OPEN SPACE

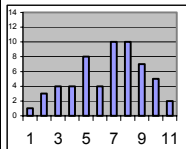
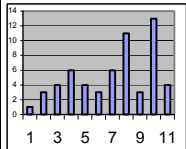
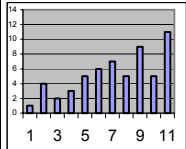
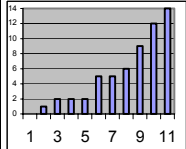
Seven criteria all were rated as high priority, suggesting a high diversity of opinion about urban open space: 1. "Areas that contain sprawl (defines an urban/rural edge or urban growth boundary)," 2. "Enhance quality of life within urban areas (e.g., flood control; urban forests; reduce temperatures; green space; community gardens)," 3. "Natural processes compatible with urban areas (e.g., wetlands for filtration or waste treatment)," 4. "Protection of agriculture, ranching, and local entrepreneurial economies (e.g., use private property as open space - viewsheds, keeps working lands economically viable; fuels reduction; potential for occupational stewardship training for urban dwellers)," 5. "Increasing contiguous parcels of protected lands (enhance mitigation lands)," 6. "Long-term stewardship (capability for operations and management)," and 7. "Protection of biodiversity (e.g., occurrence of species of concern; restorable habitat; corridors and migration routes; addresses wildlife/ human conflicts)."

There was strong agreement about the importance of highest-ranking criterion "Contains sprawl." This echoes concerns raised repeatedly throughout the workshop about urban growth and development patterns and the importance of maintaining valuable working lands. It is noteworthy that other high-ranking criteria included urban-livability issues, rural-economic concerns, as well as considerations about biodiversity. The emergence of all of these issues in this discussion of Urban Open Space demonstrates that participants believe these issues are all linked and should be addressed with mutually beneficial solutions and planning. However, it should also be mentioned that although "Protection of biodiversity" received an overall high ranking, there was significant disagreement in participants' scoring, with some scoring it high and others low. This may illustrate the divide between those participants that value biodiversity highly in considering all forms of conservation investment, versus those who value social benefits (economics, urban green space, recreation, etc.) above ecological ones when considering investment in Urban Open Space. The criteria designated as high priority were: 1. "Areas that are operationally viable: winter/summer graze; adequate "critical mass" for size; sustainable footprint; minimal indirect urban impacts and public liability (trespass, dog presence)," 2. "Areas that address other resource objectives: threatened & endangered species; impaired waterways; co-existence with other native vegetation (oak woodlands); moderate to high fuel load potential," 3. "Areas under imminent threat from development." As for the Farmlands Conservation criteria, included among the high-ranking criteria were both ecological concerns (threatened & endangered species; impaired waterways; native vegetation; fuel load) and concerns specific to the operation of grazing lands (operationally viable: winter/summer graze; adequate "critical mass" for size; minimal indirect urban impacts and public liability).

The greatest agreement in the rankings was seen for "Areas that continue or reinstate historical grazing use," with participants strongly agreeing that this is the least important of these criteria. Again, this seems to indicate that participants believe that ecological and economic viability characteristics of grazing land outweigh historical values.

Table 1e. Criteria for Urban Open Space Conservation

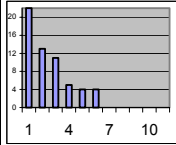
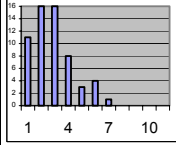
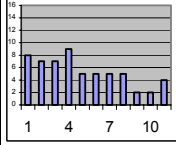
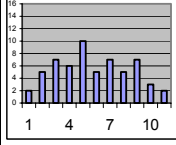
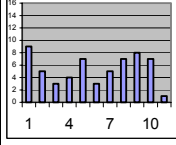
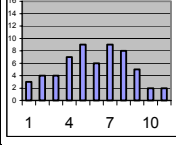
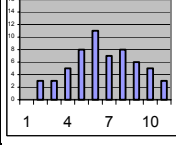
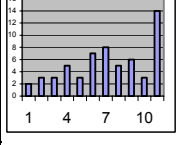
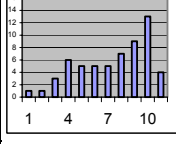
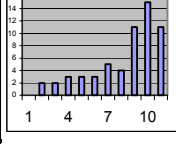
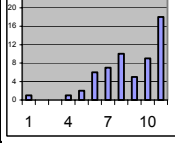
Objective: Urban Open Space				
Criteria	% of max. score	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores High \longleftrightarrow Low
Areas that contain sprawl (defines an urban/ rural edge or urban growth boundary)	100%	HIGH	4.07	
Enhance quality of life within urban areas (e.g., flood control; urban forests; reduce temperatures; green space; community gardens)	94%	HIGH	5.09	
Natural processes compatible with urban areas (e.g., wetlands for filtration or waste treatment)	93%	HIGH	5.16	
Protection of agriculture, ranching, and local entrepreneurial economies (e.g., use private property as open space - viewsheds, keeps working lands economically viable; fuels reduction; potential for occupational stewardship training for urban dwellers)	92%	HIGH	5.36	
Increasing contiguous parcels of protected lands (enhance mitigation lands)	92%	HIGH	5.38	
Long-term stewardship (capability for operations and management)	91%	HIGH	5.59	
Protection of biodiversity (e.g., occurrence of species of concern; restorable habitat; corridors and migration routes; addresses wildlife/ human conflicts)	90%	HIGH	5.72	

Objective: Urban Open Space Cont'd				
Criteria	% of max. score	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores High <=> Low
Has recreational potential (e.g. trails; nature observation)	84%	MED	6.62	
Serves cultural demographics (serves ethnic communities; addresses areas deficient in open space; economically disadvantaged areas; conversion of defunct industrial areas)	81%	MED	7.10	
Retain custom, cultural, and heritage	79%	MED	7.40	
Transportation (usable for transit, e.g., bike paths; accessible to transportation)	72%	LOW	8.52	

RURAL RECREATION

The criteria designated as high priority were: 1. “Compatibility: Supports and is compatible with rural lifestyle of working lands; can be made compatible with existing activity (e.g., sportsmen, hiking, biking, bird watching, etc.),” and 2. “Sustainability: Rural Recreation activity can continue without degradation; area can be maintained in original condition even with activity.” There was strong agreement about the importance of both of these high-ranking criteria. The theme of “multiple use” is common to both of these criteria, with “Compatibility” referring to ability to provide both recreation and continued working lands uses/ rural features, and “Sustainability” referring to the ability to provide both recreation and maintain existing ecological conditions. There was fairly strong agreement that all of the low-ranking criteria were relatively unimportant.

Table 1e. Criteria for Rural Recreation Conservation

Criteria	% of max. score	Relative Importance	Mean	Frequency of scores High \longleftrightarrow Low
Compatibility: Supports and is compatible with rural lifestyle of working lands; can be made compatible with existing activity (e.g., sportsmen, hiking, biking, bird watching, etc.)	100%	HIGH	2.46	
Sustainability: Rural Recreation activity can continue without degradation; area can be maintained in original condition even with activity	98%	HIGH	2.86	
Areas that have economic benefit; opportunities for education on rural lifestyle; historic/ prehistoric/ cultural value of sites	86%	MED	4.93	
Corridors linking to urban areas; proximity to existing recreational areas; road and boat access	81%	MED	5.78	
Biological corridors	81%	MED	5.78	
Uniqueness of area or activity; floodplains; foothills; primitive/ undeveloped sites	81%	MED	5.86	
Adequate size for the activity	76%	MED	6.63	
Restoration/ rehabilitation of existing facilities	73%	LOW	7.25	
Meets an unmet need	72%	LOW	7.41	
Viewscales	67%	LOW	8.34	
Already identified by other groups	65%	LOW	8.69	

SMALL GROUP SESSION: REGIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

The task of the second small group session was to identify conservation strategies with mutual benefits to local economies and conservation. For this discussion, participants were divided into five small groups and were asked to think region-wide.

In some groups, participants first discussed regional conservation priorities and then discussed potential strategies for achieving those priorities. Priorities were defined as areas or resources that are in need of conservation investment. The purpose of identifying priorities was not to generate a complete list representing the group's highest regional priorities; rather, the priorities were used to focus the group's discussion of strategies. Strategies are approaches to conserving natural resources that combine multiple tools and techniques and best utilize scarce funds and resources.

All five of the groups independently recognized the following strategies:

Develop incentives for conservation –

Participants suggested that financial incentives, especially tax incentives for private landowners, could be used to encourage conservation of natural resources on private lands, protection of riparian habitat, restoration projects, sustainable and habitat-friendly practices on working lands, and use of easements.

Streamline permitting processes and reduce regulatory burden - Participants expressed concerns about costly and time-consuming permitting processes and environmental regulations, and recommended reducing restrictive regulations that impose un-funded

mandates and constrain management options. Several groups recommended that there should be coordination across State agencies and between Federal and State agencies to streamline regulation. Participants suggested that there should be “one-step” permitting to reduce costs to businesses and landowners conducting land management. In particular, participants recommended an easier permitting process for restoration activities or for providing recreation opportunities. Additionally, participants suggested developing ways to address endangered species legislation issues, such as Safe Harbor agreements.

Four out of the five groups recognized the following:

Control urban growth and preventing sprawl –

Participants encouraged State leadership in promoting “Smart Growth” practices, including promoting incentives for infill and consideration of infill as mitigation for sprawl development, re-development, establishment of urban growth boundaries and greenbelts, and preservation of natural sites at the urban edge.

Utilize and improve easements for land protection -

Participants suggested easements as a valuable conservation tool for protecting land while maintaining private ownership, potentially allowing limited public access, and maintaining economic use. Recommendations for improving easements included increased financial incentives and incorporation of endowments for management.

Two out of the five groups recognized the following:

Better utilize the Federal Farm Bill –

Participants suggested that Sacramento Valley farmers should obtain greater Federal Farm Bill funding. Groups recommended allocation to the state based on the Valley's agricultural contributions on a national basis and environmental needs, as well as inclusion of specialty crops and green agriculture in the Farm Bill.

Increase education - Participants recommended environmental education about land use, population growth, and environmental degradation, especially for urban residents and local decision-makers. Improving general education opportunities was also seen as a tool to improve economies and reduce stress on resources.

Manage invasive weeds –

Groups suggested funding weed management areas and developing management plans, and educating the public about spread and identification.

Increase collaboration – Participants suggested inter-agency coordination, as

well as State and Federal agencies working with watershed groups, Coordinated Resource Management Plans, and Resource Conservation Districts.

Ensure sufficient, long-term management funding – Suggestions included endowments for maintenance and allowing maintenance funding in bond measures.

Unique strategies recognized by one group were the following:

Develop restoration and stewardship industries – This group suggested using restoration and stewardship to benefit local economies by promoting jobs and job training in restoration and stewardship, and by purchasing supplies and materials from local businesses.

Develop agricultural product labeling –

Participants suggested marketing agricultural products with labeling that highlights locally or sustainably grown crops.

Detailed results of the sub-regional groups follow:

GROUP ONE: CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

1. Develop partnerships between ranchers and wildlife conservationists to identify “corridors” or underpass locations that can mitigate road barriers for wildlife and livestock
2. Conduct artificial propagation through small, mobile fish hatcheries to reduce large hatchery genetic dilution and other impacts, such as disease outbreak
3. Provide incentives for maintenance of conservation programs
 - Consistency between conservation title vs. commodity title
 - Eliminate required match
 - Make programs more user friendly
4. Create conservation maintenance endowments (such as easements with endowments)
 - E.g., fuel break maintenance
5. Allow funding for maintenance in bond measures
Examples where this worked:
 - L.A. County: 15% to go to maintenance
 - Prop 13 flood protection corridor program: 20% to go to maintenance
6. Develop mechanisms for replacing lost tax revenue for local government
 - Property tax, assessments, sales tax
7. Develop restoration and stewardship industries as a part of local economies
 - Local planning and oversight
 - Use local business to supply restoration expertise
 - Purchase materials locally
 - Job training in restoration and stewardship
8. Involve Non Governmental Organizations in land management to allow flexibility in management practices
9. Identify environmental improvements along whole transportation corridor (within Habitat Conservation Plans)
 - Partnership in mitigation planning; early involvement
10. Seek funding through the Transportation Equity Act 21 (TEA 21) which provides funds for joint Federal-State projects that improve transportation and achieve multiple goals
 - Can address economic development and conservation planning
11. Develop incentive programs for maintaining and protecting intact, privately owned, riparian habitat
12. Create improved and expanded tax incentives for easements (AB 1602, proposed)
 - E.g., Life Estates
13. Develop limited partnership for acquisition, then resell
 - Joint tenancy doesn’t work
14. Utilize Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP)
15. Utilize 4-H program in restoration and habitat management
 - Could join with stewardship programs
 - Could provide job training, education and create work force with specific restoration skills
 - Can be used as match for funding
16. Utilize Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs
17. Promote incentives for infill development
18. Utilize zoning regulations, require cluster development
19. Simplify and streamline permitting processes
20. Promote collaborative planning and solution development with all stakeholders
21. Control population growth
22. Promote conservation education about resource values
23. Fund weed management areas
24. Address the under-representation of orchards and specialty crops in incentive programs

GROUP TWO: CONSERVATION PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES

Conservation Priorities	Strategies Addressing this Priority ⁴
1. Vernal Pool Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Acquisition and easements- Provide sufficient funding for management- Promote collaboration rather than just compliance; state and federal agencies should work with watershed groups, Coordinated Resource Management Plans, Resource Conservation Districts and Cooperative Extensions.
2. Sustainable Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop affordable cost-share programs for landowners- Allow more flexibility for bringing in funding sources for cost-share programs- Create a “one-stop” permitting process to lower costs for businesses and landowners doing land management- Find funding for air/water quality solutions; financial incentives to landowners
3. Reduction of Urban Sprawl	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- State should provide leadership for improving redevelopment, for infill approaches, and to alleviate blight- Develop better guidelines tied to performance and redevelopment funding
4. Recreation on Private Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Seed money for private landowners to provide recreation opportunities- Coordinate with Resource Conservation and Development Districts and University of California Cooperative extensions
5. Oak Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Acquisition and easements- Provide sufficient funding for long term management- Develop incentives (e.g., Wildlife Conservation Board [WCB] program, rangeland improvement incentives)
6. Infrastructure Planning (transportation, water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Caltrans should conduct outreach and engage with local communities
7. Rice Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establish easements on water
8. Water Quality	

Strategies to Meet Multiple Objectives and Other Issues:

- Quantify the monetary values of natural resources (especially water resources) that are provided by public or private lands management
- Provide financial incentives for maintaining natural resources on private lands
- Refine California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to achieve conservation objectives
- Reform tax structure so it is more equitable
- Promote education on the impacts of our different activities
- State should provide leadership
- Develop more emphasis in the Federal Farm Bill on green agriculture and allocation to state based on amount (percent of national) agricultural production and environmental needs

⁴. If no strategies are indicated for a particular priority, this does not mean that none of the given strategies are applicable; rather, this only reflects that the group did not discuss strategies uniquely suited to that priority.

GROUP THREE: CONSERVATION PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES

1. Recognize and compensate for agricultural land benefits
 - Identify flood plain areas
 - Provide farmers compensation annually
 - Compensation-worthy benefits include open space, viewsheds, habitat, water quality
 - Provide catastrophic compensation
 - Recognize other crops grown, besides those currently subsidized
2. Protect habitat around urban areas
 - Measure cumulative impacts of urban growth during the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) phase of the General Plan
 - Ensure regulation that prohibits takes of threatened and endangered species that applies to local decision making
 - Encourage more compact development
 - Increase units per acre
 - Invest in infrastructure to encourage infill
 - Connect infill development to mitigation for development on outlying areas
3. Increase conservation education
 - Educate regarding: land use, population growth, environmental degradation
 - Target local decision makers
4. Provide tax benefits
 - For equipment and improvements
 - Provide protection from increase in state and local taxation
5. Preserve riparian corridors
 - Preserve corridors on private lands
 - Educate private landowners
 - Provide incentives
 - Utilize volunteer programs
 - Utilize "In kind" contributions
6. Establish urban growth boundaries
 - Curb sprawl
 - Helps save city funds, especially in Redding
 - Establish greenbelts
7. Work with Federal/ State agencies on regulatory relief
 - Use Safe Harbor agreements
 - Streamline permitting processes
 - Foster collaboration between agencies
 - Develop "one step" permitting
8. Develop conservation labeling for agricultural products

GROUP THREE: CONSERVATION PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES CONT'D

9. Control noxious weeds
 - Educate public re: weed identification, prevent spread of weeds on private property
 - Develop weed management plans
 - Obtain funding
 - Involve all landowners and agencies
10. Provide grants for agricultural easements adjacent to urban areas
 - For example: Solano Co. has guided development with an urban growth boundary in General Plan and with other initiatives
 - Establish greenbelts
 - Utilize Williamson Act
11. Protect agricultural resources (especially soil and water)
 - Include specialty crops in Farm Bill
 - Take advantage of existing Farm Bill legislation
 - Free-up/ speed up Farm Bill process
12. Reduce fuels at the urban/ rural interface
 - Educate public on issues and good practices
 - Institute county chipping programs
13. Develop agriculture-compatible recreation
 - Utilize State and Federal programs as a funding source for management and passive recreation
 - "Hold harmless" liability legislation to protect landowners allowing recreation on their property
14. Get California its own Farm Bill
 - Divide federal program funds into regions proportional to productivity
 - City assessment to pay for agricultural easements
 - For example, Benicia Co. is considering this



GROUP FOUR: CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

1. Resources Agency should promote awareness of conservation benefits from working landscapes through marketing support; such as “Buy local” campaigns
2. Reduce restrictive regulations which impose un-funded mandates (and fees) or penalties that constrain management options
 - Resource Agency might inform Federal Agencies of impacts
 - Allow funds/ technical assistance to be used to address permitting/ regulatory requirements
3. Privatize conservation efforts
 - E.g., hunting on working landscapes; hunting dollars provide economic benefit to farmers and conservation
4. Promote cooperation with other agencies/ other efforts
5. Provide public with on-the-ground experiences about where food comes from through outreach and education
6. Encourage off-stream water storage reservoirs on appropriate rangeland locations without substantial mitigations and other agency/ governmental requirements
7. Not all strategies should involve “throwing money” at landowners; instead, need: education, marketing, etc.
8. Identify specific benefits to individual landowners to get them interested
9. Link flood protection with ecosystem restoration
 - E.g., levee setbacks in habitat areas
 - Protects downstream infrastructure and working landscapes
10. Link smart growth (control of urban growth) to conservation efforts
 - Identify where urban growth pressures are occurring
 - Identify where growth should happen
 - Preserve sites on boundary areas
 - Target dollars for easements at urban boundaries
 - Combine mixed housing densities with incentives for agricultural conservation
11. Keep General Plan guidelines consistent with agricultural conservation
 - Include an agriculture element in General Plans
 - Be careful about making it too restrictive
 - Use it to reduce local permits on agricultural activities
 - Plan for agriculture
 - Provide assistance to areas that support conservation/ agricultural viability through planning efforts
12. Design conservation easements to provide for realistic conditions that allow continued use
13. Engage in political lobbying to prevent legislation that adversely impacts conservation efforts
 - Especially legislation introduce fees or prohibitive constraints
14. Conduct controlled burns and other range management practices that provide multiple benefits

Challenges:

The group believed there were some existing efforts that have not worked well:

For example, when developing stewardship programs and hunting-related programs, California Department of Fish and Game and other agencies should adopt a scientific approach and not a politically-based one. Agencies should avoid conflicting objectives between conservation efforts. (One case: effort with deer hunting adversely impacted by mountain lion influx.)

GROUP FOUR: CONSERVATION STRATEGIES CONT'D

Guiding Principles:

- Money to landowners is not the only option to create benefits to those in business
- Streamline regulatory and permitting requirements across agencies
- Use peer-reviewed, credible science to inform management and policy decisions
- Local people that truly know what works on the ground need to have major input on decisions (on-the-ground; bottom-up knowledge)
- Promote more landowner incentive programs
 - E.g., incentives for buffer strips, habitat friendly practices
 - E.Q.U.I.P. (Environmental Quality Incentives Programs)
 - W.H.I.P. (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program)
- Invest funds to mitigate costs associated with threatened/ endangered species requirements (at the State and Federal level)
 - Scientific studies to settle questions about actual impacts from activities on Federal and State lands
- Need to eliminate inheritance taxes, will reduce fragmentation
- Provide incentives for urban infrastructure if it helps support conservation objectives
- Regulations through which government assists landowners are better received than those imposing economic and other burdens

GROUP FIVE: CONSERVATION PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES

Conservation Priorities

Strategies Addressing this Priority⁵

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Wildlife Corridors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoration incentives to private landowners - Conservation easements - Species management - Research on existing corridors - Acquisition - Safe Harbor agreements - Strategic location of mitigation bank lands - Community education, involvement, and outreach - Outreach to land managers - Creating conservation easements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limiting public access ▪ Retention of economic use ▪ Retention of traditional private use - Limited development |
| 2. Water Supply and Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compatible use - Conjunctive use (e.g., groundwater recharge, flood control) - Watershed restoration and management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upland and stream corridor - Wastewater treatment using wetlands - Public education in urban areas - Technologies for wastewater recovery - Tailwater return system for agriculture - Water conservation education - Urban and agricultural runoff monitoring - Upland water retention/ infiltration - Off-stream storage and dams - Water delivery infrastructure improvements - Increase in-stream flows for fish, wildlife, and public use - Control pollution sources (e.g., pesticides and nutrients) |
| 3. Recreational Opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservation easements - Cost-share incentive programs - Support projects that enhance education opportunities and dissemination of research - Develop funding for regional recreation opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fund/support organizations developing rural recreation; e.g., regional, multiple counties - Off-stream storage and dams - Tax incentives to local landowners - Supporting permit processes for recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Processes should be easy and low-cost |
| 4. Rangeland | |
| 5. Aquatic & Riparian Resources | |
| 6. Rural Quality of Life | |
| 7. Large, Intact, Natural Landscapes | |
| 8. Farm and Ranch Land | |
| 9. Wildlife | |

⁵. If no strategies are indicated for a particular priority, this does not mean that none of the given strategies are applicable; rather, this only reflects that the group did not discuss strategies uniquely suited to that priority.

GROUP FIVE: CONSERVATION PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES CONT'D

Strategies to Meet Multiple Objectives:

- Develop increased collaboration with agencies, funding entities, technical assistance, landowners and operators
- Streamline processes for implementing conservation
- Reduce barriers to restoration
- Economic
- Endangered species restrictions
- Utilize Safe Harbor agreements
- Utilize cost-share incentive programs
- Develop regional conservation planning and implementation
- Enhance educational opportunities
- Promote regional branding
- Create incentives and reduce disincentives



III. INFORMATION EXCHANGE



An equally important component of the *Spotlight on Conservation* workshop is the Information Exchange. The Legacy Project displayed existing datasets on regional and statewide maps and gathered information on existing regional conservation plans and priorities from the participants. Participants had several opportunities over the day and a half workshop to view the mapped information, interact with staff, and, most importantly, to provide Legacy with valuable data, feedback, and ideas on conservation.

STATION RESULTS

In **The Data Walk** portion of the Information Exchange, regional and statewide maps displayed existing datasets of natural resources, working landscapes, and urban growth projections (such as land cover, impaired waterways, etc). Legacy staff members were available to talk about the different maps. Participants were directed to tell us what data might be incorrect and what additional information was needed to help them do their jobs better. Some participants alerted us to incorrect classifications of land ownership; others informed us of the availability of additional datasets including mapping of floodplains and riparian vegetation and habitat. For more details on

the datasets and participants' comments, see Appendix C.

At the **Data Catalogs** station, participants were asked, "Are there key restoration and monitoring projects not on the data base?" **California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES)** staff fielded questions about the data walk and provided a way for participants to add "data about regional data" to the online CERES data catalogue.

The **Urban Growth Model** displayed projections of population growth distribution and potential urban/ suburban development in the region. This station garnered great interest because participants visually witnessed possible future urban growth scenarios and how they change with different assumptions or constraints on growth.

Many participants visited the **Demo Decision Support Tools Station** staffed by **Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)** employees. This station demonstrated basic and advanced concepts in GIS applications and green mapping. Questions at the station ranged from very technical to more basic ones, such as: What data is available and how is it collected? Staffers noted that the participants were well-informed about GIS technologies.

Participants also contributed information about **Existing and Emerging Conservation Plans** and **Private Land Stewardship Projects**, as well as about places that they considered to be **Regional and Statewide Conservation Priorities**. Their input is recorded on the maps that follow.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY EXISTING AND EMERGING CONSERVATION PLANNING EFFORTS

Participants were asked “*Are there existing or emerging conservation plans in the region that aren’t currently on Legacy’s maps? Why are they important?*”

Of the 32 conservation efforts identified, exactly half addressed more than one type of resource. Terrestrial Biodiversity was addressed by 50% of the 32 programs, and nearly half (46%) of the programs addressed Working Landscapes. Roughly 40% of the plans addressed Aquatic Biodiversity, about 30% of the plans addressed Rural Recreation, and nearly 19% addressed Urban Open Space. Restoration was the most frequently cited goal (28%) of the conservation efforts identified. Other common goals from included weed management and control (6 citations) and data mapping (5 citations, for weeds, wetlands, preserved lands, and assessing data gaps/ opportunities). It is also worth noting that eight of the 32 conservation planning locations fell within Lake County, near Clear Lake.

The dot numbers on the map below (Figure 2) are keyed to the subsequent table (Table 2), which gives information about each plan, such as name of effort, purpose, and the source of information.

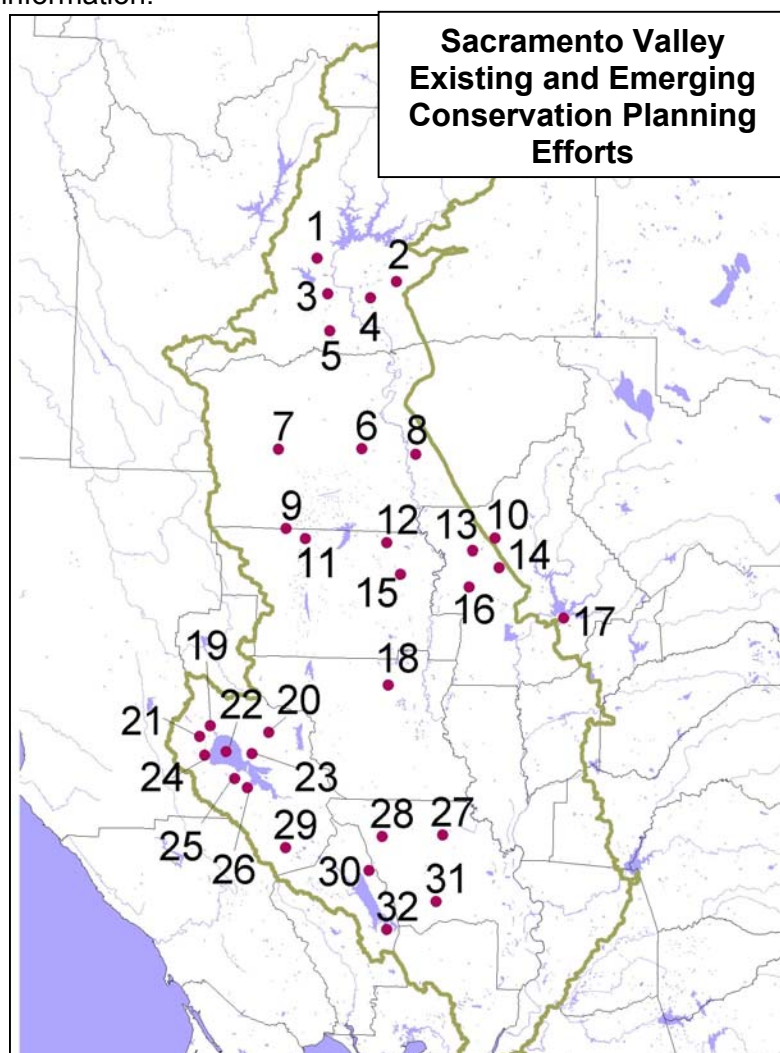


Figure 2. Locations of Existing and Emerging Conservation Planning Efforts identified by workshop participants for the Sacramento Valley.

Table 2: Conservation Planning Efforts (CPE's) identified by workshop participants for the Sacramento Valley.

Resource category addressed:

AB = aquatic biodiversity, including riparian and watershed issues

TB = terrestrial biodiversity, habitat

WL = working landscapes

US = urban open space

RR = rural recreation lands

Dot#	Type	Name of CPE	County	Geographic Scope	Primary Purpose	Source of Information ⁶	Organization Working on Effort (if known) or Affiliation of Info Source
1	AB, TB, WL, US, RR	Upper Clear Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan	Shasta		Watershed restoration, etc.	Stuart Gray	Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
2	AB, TB, WL	Cow Creek Watershed Conceptual Area Protection Plan	Shasta		Proposal to Wildlife Conservation Board for funding of conservation projects with Shasta Land Trust & Redding field office of Dept. of Fish & Game	Kathleen Gilman	Shasta Land Trust
3	AB, TB, WL, US, RR	Lower Clear Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan	Shasta		Watershed restoration, etc.	Stuart Gray	Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
4	AB, TB, WL, US, RR	Cow Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan	Shasta		Watershed restoration, etc.	Stuart Gray	Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
5	AB, TB, WL, US, RR	Cottonwood Creek Resource Management Plan	Shasta		Watershed restoration, etc.	Stuart Gray	Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
6	AB, RR	Central Valley wetlands water supply investigations report	Various	Central Valley, Red Bluff to Bakersfield	Use GIS to prioritize habitat for wetlands restoration	Bob Shaffer	US Fish & Wildlife Service, Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture; Ducks Unlimited
7	TB, WL, RR	Sunflower Coordinated Resource Management Plan -Tehama County	Tehama	Western Tehama County 60,000 acres; Sunflower Flat region	Wildfire and vegetation management and forestry	Bill Burrows	Burrows Ranch Hunting Club
8		U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Central Valley Project Conservation Program & Habitat & Restoration Program		Sacramento Valley	Conservation of endangered/ threatened species and/ or their habitat	Myrnie Mayville Chuck Solomon	US Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Regional Office

⁶ Contact information available in Appendix D.

Table 2 cont'd.

Dot#	Type	Name of CPE	County	Geographic Scope	Primary Purpose	Source of Information ⁶	Organization Working on Effort (if known) or Affiliation of Info Source
9	TB, WL	Oak Woodland Management Plans	Glenn/ Colusa/ Tehama	3 counties: Glenn, Colusa, Tehama	Oak Woodland conservation		Glenn/ Colusa County Resource Conservation District; Tehama County Agriculture Commissioner
10	TB, WL	Foothills Plan	Butte	Butte County	Open space & habitat preservation; easements	Henry Lomelli	Department of Fish & Game, Region 2
11	16	Glenn, Colusa & Tehama Weed Management Area, also a Butte weed management area		Various	Monitor, control & maintain invasive weeds. Help counties develop strategies to do so.		California Department of Food and Agriculture, Glen County Agriculture Department, Butte County Agricultural Department
12	WL	Stony Creek Landowners	Glenn	Creek/ Watershed	Promote responsible land use along Stony Creek & good management practices	Ed Romano	Glenn County
13	AB, TB, WL, US	City of Chico Management Plan for protected natural lands in the City of Chico		City of Chico	Identify all preserved lands in the city's sphere of influence & create a management plan & GIS layer (especially focused on Meadowfoam & the river)	John Merz	Sacramento River Preservation Trust
14		The Nature Conservancy Scoping		Statewide	Identify important conservation areas	Dawit Zeleke	The Nature Conservancy
15	WL	Glenn County Aggregate Resource Management Plan	Glenn	Glenn County	Responsibility plan/ conserve areas where mining is viable	Nancy Sailsberry	Glenn County Planning Division
16		Glenn, Colusa & Tehama Weed Management Area, also a Butte weed management area		Various	Monitor, control & maintain invasive weeds. Help counties develop strategies to do so.		California Department of Food and Agriculture, Glen County Agriculture Department, Butte County Agricultural Department
17	AB, TB, RR	Oroville Dam re-licensing - wildlife & fisheries management plan	Butte	Project Area (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2001)	Protection; mitigation; enhancement	Rick Ramirez	Department of Water Resources
18		Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Implementation Plan		From Sacramento to Red Bluff along 300' contour.	Wetland & waterbird conservation. Directs habitat restoration activities of many partners.	Ruth Ostroff	US Fish & Wildlife Service/ Joint Venture
19	AB, TB, WL	Removing non-natives & restoring tribal traditional natives	Lake	Upper Cache Creek, Clear Lake	Develop native plant collection & gathering site, in addition to preventing and controlling soil erosion, which impacts water quality of Clear Lake	Robert Quitiquit	Water Resources Program, Robinson Rancheria

⁶ Contact information available in Appendix D.

Table 2 cont'd.

Dot#	Type	Name of CPE	County	Geographic Scope	Primary Purpose	Source of Information ⁶	Organization Working on Effort (if known) or Affiliation of Info Source
20		Lake County Resource Management Committee	Lake		Formed in 1990. Effective model of coordination with State, Federal, Local & Tribal, with appointed citizens in subcommittees	Tony Gallegos	Lake County Public Works
21	AB, TB, RR	Wetland/ Upland Conservation	Lake	Rodman Ranch/ Slough	Multi-use planning of Land Trust/ Department of Fish & Game/ County property; heron rookery protection & education	Suzanne Sholtz	Lake County Land Trust
22	AB	Clear Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan	Lake	Clear Lake	Control & management of invasive and nuisance aquatic vegetation	Tony Gallegos	Lake County Public Works
23	AB	Wetland Planning Project	Lake	Clear Lake & adjacent wetlands	Mapping; planning; protection	Tony Gallegos	Lake County Public Works
24		Weed Management Planning	Lake	Lake County	Strategic Plans to coordinate invasive weed control	Tony Gallegos	Public Works/ Wildlife Management Area
25		Clear Lake Basin Management Plan	Lake	Clear Lake Basin		Tony Gallegos	Lake County Coordinated Resources & Planning Group
26	TB, RR	Black Forest Conservation	Lake	North Shore Mt. Konocti	Forest Protection	Suzanne Sholtz	Lake County Land Trust
27	TB, WL	Weed Management Area, Yolo County	Yolo	Yolo County	10 of the most noxious weeds in Yolo County targeted for management	Rick Landon	Yolo County
28		Capay Valley Watershed Action Plan	Yolo	Capay Valley: Cache Creek from valley mouth to Esparto	Guide for creek restoration & landowner conservation efforts in Capay Valley	Vance Howard	Yolo County Resource Conservation District
29	AB, TB, WL, US, RR	East Lake Resource Conservation District, ASCOE, Natural Resources Conservation Service Upper Putah Creek Watershed	Lake	Upper Putah Creek Watershed	Ground truth data, assess gaps & opportunities, propose solutions -- not an active plan	Dwight Holford	Upper Putah Creek Stewardship
30		Putah - Cache Creek bioregion	Napa/ Yolo	Two watersheds: Cache & Putah Creek	Resource conservation, weed management, education	David Robertson	University of California Davis
31	WL	Willow Slough Watershed Integrated Resource Management Plan	Yolo	100 square miles in Yolo County between Cache & Putah Creeks	Coordination of voluntary landowners conservation efforts especially re: wildlife habitat, erosion control, stream revegetation, flood control	Paul Robins	Yolo County Resource Conservation District
32	TB	Quail Ridge Wilderness Conservancy	Napa	South end of Lake Berryessa, part of Blue Ridge Berryessa Project	Land preservation	Frank Maurer	

⁶ Contact information available in Appendix D..

PRIVATE LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

Participants were asked to identify sites where private stewardship conservation projects are in place and have demonstrated success. Six projects were noted. Three of those identified stewardship efforts focused on addressing fire threats with aims of reducing fuels and creating fuel breaks. Two of the projects focused on agricultural practices that are wildlife friendly or ecologically beneficial.

Table 3. Private Land Stewardship Projects identified by workshop participants for the Sacramento Valley.

Name of Area	County	Name of Effort and Primary Aim(s)	Year initiated	Primary landscapes, habitats, or ecosystems involved?	Funding	Source of Information	Affiliation ⁷
Van Fleck easement	Sacramento	Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Project; riceland easement with winter flooding; winter flooding - Duck Club	2002	Rice land	Conservation easement completed	Nicole Van Vleck/ Olin Zirkle	Ducks Unlimited
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District	Shasta	Fuelbreaks, Shingletown Ridge, Backbone Ridge, and Muletown; watershed protection; homeowner safety; ridgetops, roads, powerlines in areas of concern	1998	Forest lands (U.S. Forest Service, Non-Industrial Private Forests, Sierra Pacific)	State & Federal: U.S. Forest Service, California Dept. of Forestry via California-wide plan & Environmental Quality Incentives Program	Mary Schoeder	Western Shasta RCD
Upper Putah Creek Watershed	Lake	319(h) Grant; gathering Best Management Indicators to evaluate Best Management Practices: grazing, walnuts, vines, urban development (Hidden Valley Lake, Cobb Mountain)	1999	Riparian habitat, macroinvertebrates	Environmental Protection Area/ Regional Water Quality Control Board Region 5	Dwight Holford	Upper Putah Creek Stewardship
Cohasset	Butte	Shaded fuel reduction; reduce logging, ladder fuels, dead brush; return fire to forest floor; reduce risk of stand replacing fire; recycle nutrients; improve forest health	1990	Mixed conifer forest	No	Jim Brobeck	x
Cohasset, Forest Ranch, Paradise	Butte	Butte Fire Safe Council; creating fire safe landscapes in the Butte County Urban-wildland interface through construction of shaded fuel breaks	2001	Mixed conifer, foothill transition	California Fire Safe Council	Jim Brobeck	x
Big Chico Creek	Butte	Big Chico Creek Ecological Preserve; preservation & restoration of ecological function of salmon-bearing Big Chico Creek & area habitat/ terrain	2000	Riparian, foothill, chaparral, mixed conifer	Yes	Jeff Mott	University Foundation, Chico State

⁷. Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization.

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

At the regional conservation priorities station, participants were asked to place dots on a state map to identify the top three places and/ or resources needing additional conservation attention in the region. The locations identified by participants as regional conservation priorities are shown on the map on the following page. It is important to note that these dots do not represent the priorities of the participant group as a whole; rather, it is a collection of individual's ideas. This information can be used to consider new places for investment as well as to identify interested groups for a particular location. The dot numbers (Figure 3) are keyed to the subsequent table (Table 4), which provides information about each site, such as location, importance, and the source of information.

Of the 102 locations identified, the greatest numbers of dots were placed in the foothills of Butte County (12 dots), tributaries to the Sacramento River in Shasta county (8 dots), Sutter Buttes (5 dots) and the Mill Creek/ Ishi Wilderness Area (4 dots). Improved watershed management and planning (through long-term stream flow monitoring, improved water quality, groundwater recharge, and dam removal) were the most commonly cited needed actions (mentioned 41 times). Land protection (through acquisition, easements, better urban growth planning) was also frequently cited (mentioned 34 times). Other recommendations included protecting unique vernal pools habitat and active Salmonid stream runs, and recording and mapping car/ livestock collisions for potential underpass locations.

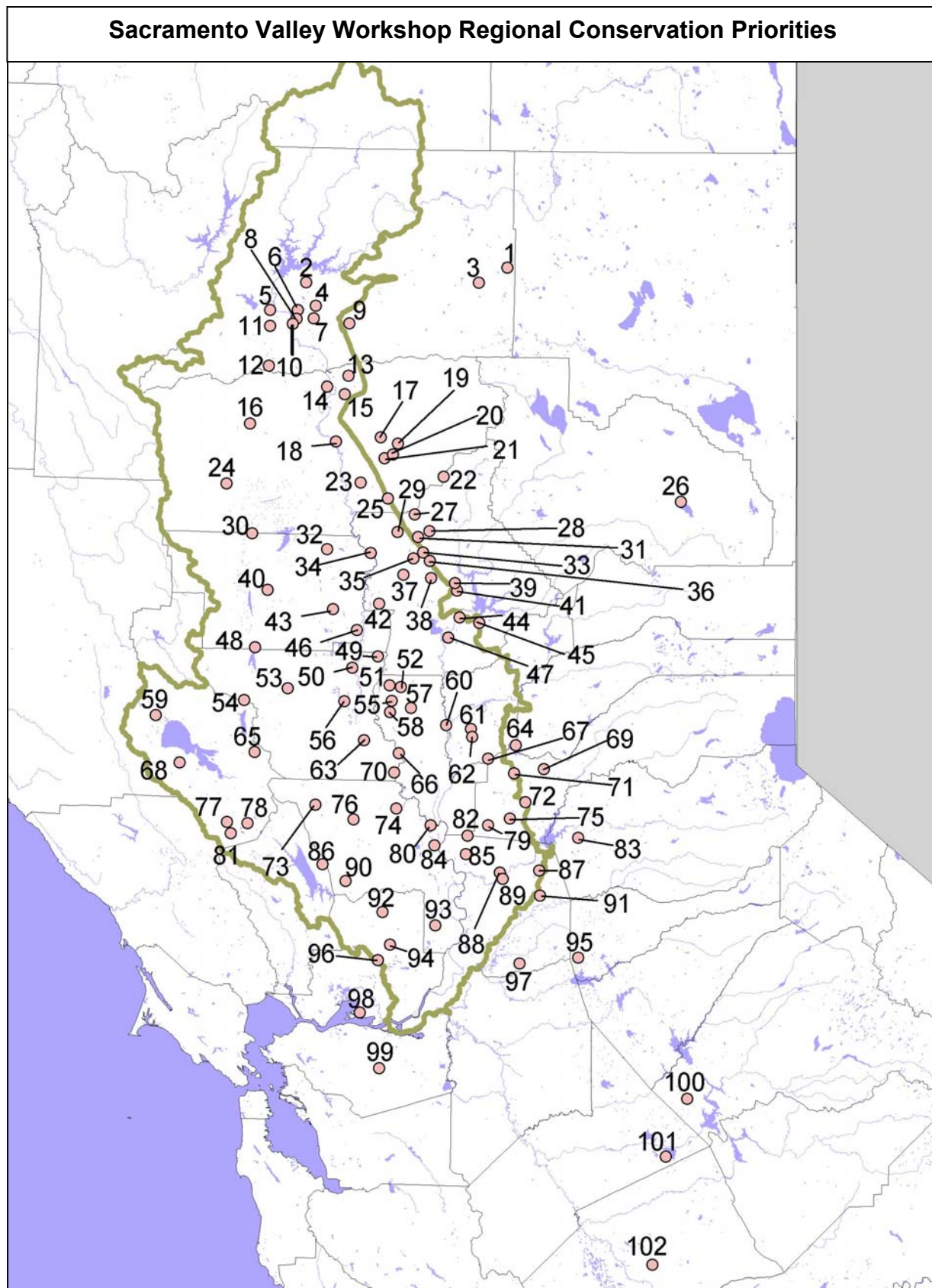


Figure 3. Locations of Regional Conservation Priorities identified by workshop participants for the Sacramento Valley.

Table 4. Regional Conservation Priorities identified by workshop participants for the Sacramento Valley.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed action	Existing Effort for the Location?	Source of Information	Affiliation ⁸
1	Major Roads & highways in region; including, but not limited to, Highways 36 & 44		Continuing family ranches; conserving wildlife; increasing deer herds	Record and map car/ deer and car/ cow collisions; map potential under pass locations that would work to minimize collisions for both livestock and wildlife; construct underpasses that would work to minimize such collisions	Yes, Lassen County Board of Supervisors underpasses for Highway 44	Wallace Roney/ Michelle Cullens	Roney Land & Cattle Company/ Mountain lion Foundation
2	Various	Shasta	Existing fuel maintenance	Funding	Yes, Fire Safe Council Coordinated Resource Management Plans	Stuart Gray	Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
3	Sierra Range National Forest	Butte/ Tehama/ Lassen	Biodiversity; water quality	Support Assembly Joint Resolution # 11	Yes, Sierra Forest Protection campaign	James Brobeck	Butte Environmental Council
4	Stillwater Creek	Shasta	Invasive Arundo degrading riparian and aquatic functions	Restoration	Yes, Shasta Wildlife Management Area	Stuart Gray	Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
5	Salt Creek west side of Redding	Shasta	Salmonid stream with active runs threatened by development	Protection & restoration	Yes, Western Shasta Resource Conservation District	Brady Moss	The Trust for Public Land Nor Cal Program
6	Eastern Edge of Redding	Shasta	Urban sprawl; Greenbelt needed	Greenbelt should be designed & implemented	Uncertain	Brady Moss	The Trust for Public Land Nor Cal Program
7	Cow Creek Watershed	Shasta	Under intense development pressure; excellent habitat, rangeland, & biological corridors	Conservation of current resources, including larger ranches	Yes, Conceptual Area Protection Plan in progress, Shasta Land Trust working with local Dept. Fish & Game office	Kathleen Gilman	Shasta Land Trust
8	Stillwater Creek Watershed	Shasta	Under intense development pressure; valuable vernal pool habitat	Conserve habitat	Yes, Dept. Fish & Game working area	Kathleen Gilman	Shasta Land Trust
9	Major Roads & highways in region; including, but not limited to, Highways 36 & 44		Continuing family ranches; conserving wildlife; increasing deer herds	Record and map car/ deer and car/ cow collisions; map potential under pass locations that would work to minimize collisions for both livestock and wildlife; construct underpasses that would work to minimize such collisions	Yes, Lassen County Board of Supervisors underpasses for Highway 44	Wallace Roney/ Michelle Cullens	Roney Land & Cattle Company/ Mountain lion Foundation
10	Clover Creek Vernal Pool Complex - East of Redding, south of Highway 44		Vernal pool complexes			Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society

⁸ Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization. Contact information for participants available in Appendix D.

Table 4 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed action	Existing Effort for the Location?	Source of Information	Affiliation ⁸
11	Lower Clear Creek	Shasta	Complete Salmon habitat restoration	Funding for final phase of existing plan	Yes, LCC CRMP & many partners	Stuart Gray	Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
12	Cottonwood Creek	Shasta/ Tehama	Red-legged frog & other species	Protect riparian habitat	Uncertain	Myrnie Mayville	US Bureau of Reclamation
13	Battle Creek	Tehama	Fish	Remove dams	Yes	Dawit Zeleke	The Nature Conservancy, Sacramento River Project
14	Sacramento River floodplain	Multiple Co.s	Loosing productive farmland to meander zone	Balance conservation with food production	Yes	Ron Davis	x
15	Proposed Sacramento River National Conservation Area	Shasta/ Tehama	Salmon & steelhead; winter runs	Congressional approval for conservation area	Yes, Sacramento River Management Area (Bureau of Land Management)	John Merz	Sacramento River Preservation Trust
16	Red Bank from north to east park reserve inner coast range.		This area contains ranches held by the same families for generations. Incredible plant diversity, habitat and special status plant species only documented by Dept. of Water Resources.			Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
17	Lassen Foothills	Tehama	Deer winter range	Long term monitoring		Burt Bundy	Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
18	Sacramento River	Multiple Counties	Natural processes; biodiversity; migration corridor	Continued Planning & Coordination	Yes, SRCAF	Burt Bundy/ Greg Golet	Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum/ The Nature Conservancy
19	Mill Creek	Tehama	Spring-run	Long term monitoring	Yes, Mill Creek Conservancy	Burt Bundy	Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
20	Mill Creek	Tehama	x	Restore flows	Uncertain	Dawit Zeleke	The Nature Conservancy, Sacramento River Project
21	Deer Creek	Tehama	x	Restore flows; remove dams	Uncertain	Dawit Zeleke	The Nature Conservancy, Sacramento River Project
22	Big Chico Creek Watershed	Butte/ Tehama	Biodiversity; water quality	Reduce industrial clear-cut silviculture & chemical free hazard	Yes, Lassen Forest Preservation Group	James Brobeck	Lassen Forest Preservation Group
23	Valley edges	Glenn/ Tehama/ Butte/ Yuba	Endangered species conservation & protection of rural economies	Establish processes to enable farming/ ranching practices to continue with minimum Endangered Species Act impediments in vernal pool areas	No	Marc Horney	University of California cooperative extension

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Table 4 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed action	Existing Effort for the Location?	Source of Information	Affiliation ⁸
24	Foothills	Colusa/ Glenn/ Tehama/ Butte	Critical for hydrology & habitat rangeland ecosystem function	Acceleration of Oak Woodland regeneration	Uncertain	Marc Horney	University of California cooperative extension
25	North of Chico/ Vina Plains vernal pool complex in eastern Tehama County	Tehama	Vernal pool complexes	x	x	Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
26	Major Roads & highways in region; including, but not limited to, Highways 36 & 44	x	Continuing family ranches; conserving wildlife; increasing deer herds	Record and map car/ deer and car/ cow collisions; map potential under pass locations that would work to minimize collisions for both livestock and wildlife; construct underpasses that would work to minimize such collisions	Yes, Lassen County Board of Supervisors underpasses for Highway 44	Wallace Roney/ Michelle Cullens	Roney Land & Cattle Company/ Mountain Lion Foundation
27	Tuscan formation	Butte/ Tehama	Groundwater recharge	Prevent urban expansion	x	James Brobeck	Lassen Forest Preservation Group
28		Butte	Aquifer recharge	Study; zoning protection	No	Barbara Viamis	Butte Environmental Council
29	Vernal Pools	Butte/ Tehama	Biodiversity; water quality	Vernal pool critical habitat designation	Yes, US Fish & Wildlife Service designation	James Brobeck	Butte Environmental Council
30	Westside	Tehama/ Glenn/ Colusa	Blue Oak woodlands, vernal pools, etc.	Biological studies needed	No, but site investigation worthy of note	John Merz	Sacramento River Preservation Trust
31	Chico State						
32	Riparian corridors	Butte/ Glenn/ Tehama	Link river to foothills	Easements; acquisitions		David Dewey	
33	Butte creek	Butte	Salmon spawning habitat	Protect the existing waterway	No	Bill Morrison	California Department of Forestry
34	Big Chico Creek Riparian	Butte	Sensitive species	Conservation; restoration	Yes, Sacramento River Area Conservation Forum	Woody Elliott	CA Dept. Parks & Recreation
35	Oak Valley Woodlands	Butte	Keystone & indicator species	Preserve corridors	No	Lynn Barris	Butte Environmental Council
36	South of Chico vernal pools along both sides of highway 99 and around the Chico airport		Vernal pool complexes			Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
37	Butte groundwater aquifers	Butte	Terrestrial biodiversity; water quality	Basin management for integrity	Yes, Basin Management Objectives Plan	James Brobeck	Lassen Forest Preservation Group
38	Foothills	Butte	Recharge for aquifer	Don't allow development	Uncertain, possibly Department of Water Resources & County	Lynn Barris	Butte Environmental Council

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Table 4 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed action	Existing Effort for the Location?	Source of Information	Affiliation ⁸
39	Table Mountain	x	Upland grassland habitat with vernal pool and volcanic rare plants; high biodiversity especially herbaceous plants.	x	x	Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
40	Foothills	All	Critical for hydrology & habitat rangeland ecosystem function	Control of Barb Goatgrass, Yellow Star Thistle, Medusahead	Yes, Weed Management Area	Marc Horney	University of California cooperative extension
41	Table Mountain	Butte	Flora display	Preservation; develop management plan; acquire more land	Yes, Table Mountain Wildlife Area	Woody Elliott	CA Dept. Parks & Recreation
42	Agricultural land	Butte/ Tehama	Food production; open space	Commodity price support		James Brobeck	Butte Environmental Council
43	Valley Margins	All	Vernal pools; grasslands; Endangered Species Act issues	Preservation		Barbara Vlamis	Butte Environmental Council
44	Oroville Feather River Hatchery	Butte	Big contribution to fishery & economy	Maintain production	Yes, Dam relicensing	Ron Davis	
45	Oroville Area	Butte	Oaks important to migrating song birds	Conserve oak woodland habitat	No	Ron Davis	
46	Sacramento Valley	All	Waterbody quality	Monitoring Total Maximum Daily Loads	No	Barbara Vlamis	Butte Environmental Council
47	No information provided						
48	Colusa Basin Drainage District	Glenn/ Colusa	Blue Oak woodlands, vernal pools, etc.	Biological studies needed	No, but Colusa Basin Flood Management Plan	John Merz	Sacramento River Preservation Trust
49	No information provided						
50	Colusa	Colusa	Farmlands & floodplain	Set back levees; reconnect river & flood easements		Elizabeth Patterson	Dept. of Water Resources
51	Butte Sink freshwater Marshes		Freshwater marshes	Consider agriculture easements to connect special areas		Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
52	Sutter Buttes	Sutter	Scenic; unique habitat	Preservation; conservation	Uncertain	Woody Elliott	CA Dept. Parks & Recreation
53	Soil quality	Colusa	Sustain agriculture & natural communities; decrease erosion and sedimentation	Changes in farming practices; make incentive programs available for landowners to do projects that enhance soil quality & decrease erosion	Yes, Colusa Co. Resource Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Rachel Sullivan	X
54	Coast Range inland foothills (inner Coast Range)- Walker Ridge & Bear Valley (Vacaville I-80 to East Park Reservoir to the North		Primarily grazing lands that are lightly to moderately grazed			Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
55	Sutter Buttes	Colusa/ Sutter	Unspoiled still	Keep from being divided into smaller parcels	Uncertain	David Dewey	X

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Table 4 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed action	Existing Effort for the Location?	Source of Information	Affiliation ⁸
56	Colusa Basin Drain	Colusa	Water quality impaired	More land owner coordination; more Best Management Practices	Yes, CBDD, Colusa Co. Resource Conservation District etc.	Rachel Sullivan	
57	Sutter Buttes	Sutter	Bio-Geographic significance	Acquisition/ easements	Yes, County/ State Parks/ Middle Mountain Foundation	Dick Troy	Sac Valley Conservancy
58	Sutter Buttes	Butte	Under threat from development			Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
59	Clear Lake	Lake	Multi-purpose water quality habitat/ recreation improvements	Assist with Middle Creek restoration project	No	Tony Gallegos	Lake County Public Work
60	Feather River Area	Yuba/ Sutter	Recreation; riparian habitat	Riparian cleanup; restoration	Uncertain	Al Fernandez	US Air Force
61	Beale Air Force Base	Sutter	Preserve military mission & assets to local economy	Preserve land on periphery of base	Yes, DOD preservation programs	Mark Braly	Office of Economic Adjustment, Dept. of Defense
62	Beale Air Force Base Vernal Pool Complex		Vernal pools, both sides support rangeland			Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
63	Agricultural land preservation	Colusa	To allow for the continuance of agriculture and funding in counties & state; land management & programs	Educational outreach & community coordination	No	Rachel Sullivan	
64	Yuba Foothills	Yuba	Habitat restoration	Preservation; urban sprawl avoidance; better regional planning	Uncertain	Al Fernandez	US Air Force
65	Highway 20	Lake	Oak woodland destruction	Re-plant oaks, encourage retention	No	Bill Morrison	California Department of Forestry
66	Sacramento River	Multiple Co.s	Largest river in state	Wider flood plain; habitat restoration	Yes, multiple efforts	Dick Troy	Sac Valley Conservancy
67	Bear River Watershed	Yuba/ Placer	Wildlife & fisheries	Habitat restoration; invasive species control; protect from encroachment & development	Uncertain	Kirsten Christophrson	US Air Force
68	West foothills	Lake	To deliver service	Funding for Resource Conservation Districts	Yes, West Lake Resource District	Ray Mostin	West Lake Resource District
69	Western Placer County	Placer	Fragmentation of Blue Oak Woodland, Bear River & Coon Creek	Protection & restoration	Yes, Placer Legacy	Brady Moss	The Trust for Public Land Nor Cal Program
70	Sacramento River	Colusa & south	Connection between Delta & upper reaches	Un-ditch the channel; put water in the Sutter bypass	Uncertain	David Dewey	
71	Spenceville Area		Under threat from development			Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
72	Roseville/ Rocklin/ Lincoln Area	Placer	Urban sprawl is out of control	Smart growth; conserve wetlands & rangeland	Yes	Kirsten Christophrson	US Air Force

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Table 4 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed action	Existing Effort for the Location?	Source of Information	Affiliation ⁸
73	Capay Valley	Yolo	Rare, primarily agriculture valley with large creek; serious sedimentation and noxious weed problem	Funds for plan & implementation in process	Yes, Cache Creek watershed stakeholder group	Paul Robins	Yolo County Resource Conservation District
74	North of Woodland	Yolo	Swainson's Hawk nesting habitat	Cropland conservation; Plant new trees	Yes, Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan	John Hopkins	Institute for Ecological Health
75	West Placer County Vernal Pool area	x	Agriculture lands at the south end are highly at risk. Area supports excellent giant garter snake habitat & is under great threat from development.	x	x	Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
76	Hungry Hollow Area	Yolo	High level of erosion; no plan	Watershed planning; soil stabilization	Uncertain	Paul Robins	Yolo County Resource Conservation District
77	Upper Putah Creek Watershed	Lake	No data exists	Sample creek for sensitive macroinvertebrates	Yes, 319 h grant	Dwight Holford	Upper Putah Creek Stewardship
78	Upper Putah Creek Watershed	Lake	No data exists	Locate & map mercury remains	Uncertain	Dwight Holford	Upper Putah Creek Stewardship
79	West of Roseville	Placer	Vernal pool grassland	Permanent land conservation	Yes, Placer Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan	John Hopkins	Institute for Ecological Health
80	Sacramento River	Yolk/ Sutter/ Sacramento	Wildlife & fisheries	Address pollution, habitat restoration & protection from development	Uncertain	Kirsten Christopher	US Air Force
81	Upper Putah Creek Watershed	Lake	Threat to water quality	Eradicate Arundo	Yes, 319 h grant	Dwight Holford	Upper Putah Creek Stewardship
82	Interstate 5	Sacramento	Valuable farmland loss	Encourage retention; relocate urban plans	No	Bill Morrison	California Department of Forestry
83	Gabbro Soil Complexes	x	x	x	x	Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
84	Sutter bypass & up river	Sutter/ Colusa	Aquatic/ floodplain corridor	Set back levees; acquire flood easement	x	Elizabeth Patterson	Dept. of Water Resources
85	North Natomas Freshwater Marshes	x	Freshwater marshes	Consider agriculture easements to connect special areas	x	Bonnie Ross	X
86	Berryessa Blue Ridge	Yolk/ Napa/ Lake/ Solano	High biodiversity; large existing intact lands	Conservation easements funding working lands	x	Frank Maurer Jr.	X
87	Blue Oak woodlands & savanna	Sacramento / Placer/ El Dorado	Near urban open space	Acquisition/ easements	Yes, County Plans	Dick Troy	Sac Valley Conservancy
88	American River	Sacramento	Recreation; habitat	Restoration, repair banks	Uncertain	Al Fernandez	US Air Force

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Table 4 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed action	Existing Effort for the Location?	Source of Information	Affiliation ⁸
89	Deer Creek Hills	x	Blue Oak Savannah	x	x	Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
90	No information provided	x	x	x	x	x	X
91	South of Folsom	Sacramento	Wintering raptor habitat	Permanent rangeland conservation	Yes, East Sacramento County Open Space study	John Hopkins	Institute for Ecological Health
92	Yolo/ Solano agricultural lands	Yolo/ Solano	Important farmlands	Working lands protection through conservation easements	x	Elizabeth Patterson	Dept. of Water Resources
93	Yolo Basin Freshwater Marshes	x	Freshwater marshes	Consider agriculture easements to connect special areas	x	Bonnie Ross	
94	North Solano County	Solano	Noxious weed problem; "ranchette-ization"; lost habitat	Watershed coordination support & funding for landowner education & implementation	Uncertain	Paul Robins	Yolo County Resource Conservation District
95	Ione Chaparral	x	Ione formation is unique in California and supports a unique and varied plant community	x	x	Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
96	Jepson Prairie, Travis Area	x	x	x	x	Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
97	Sacramento Vernal Pool Complexes - East county Habitat Conservation Plan areas, Deer Creek Hills-at risk.	x	Vernal pools; at risk of development	x	x	Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
98	Bay Area	x	x	x	x	Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
99	South Coast Ranges (Mt. Diablo and Henry Coe State Park)	x	Contain serpentine soils and rare plants; Rare plant hotspot north of Livermore; best area in the state for California Tiger Salamander & Coulter Pines	Need connections to other islands habitats: Sycamore alluvial woodland, California Natural Diversity Database special status habitat, Alkaline grassland rare plants & animals such as the San Joaquin Kit Fox	x	Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
100	Northwest Tuolumne County - Red Hills	x	Serpentine complex and rare plant hot spot	x	x	Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
101	Merced Vernal Pool Complexes, from Merced to just north of Hwy 4 east of Stockton	Merced	Vernal pools with associated grasslands and uplands	x	x	Bonnie Ross	California Native Plant Society
102	San Luis Grassland Area	x	Alkaline soils complex in the National Wildlife Refuge (reduced ag pressure)	x	x	x	x

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STATEWIDE CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

At the statewide conservation priorities station, participants were asked to place dots on a state map to identify the top three places and resources needing additional conservation attention in the state. The locations are shown on the map below. It is important to note that these dots do not represent the priorities of the participant group as a whole; rather, it is a collection of individual's ideas. The dot numbers (Figure 4) are keyed to the subsequent table (Table 5), which gives information about each site, such as location, reason for conservation needs, and the source of information.

The majority of dots were placed in the Sacramento Valley; this probably reflects the fact that participants are most knowledgeable about their own region, and also indicates that participants believe conservation priorities in their region warrant attention and funding. The dots were distributed throughout the Valley, without pronounced clusters around specific sites. Two features that did receive particular attention were the Sacramento River and the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta. Outside of the Sacramento Valley, participants assigned the greatest number of dots to coastal sites. On a statewide basis, watershed and river conservation issues, such as water quality, fisheries and salmonid conservation, and protection of riparian and floodplain areas, were cited as important concerns. Additionally, conservation of fertile farmland and keeping agriculture economically viable were repeatedly mentioned.

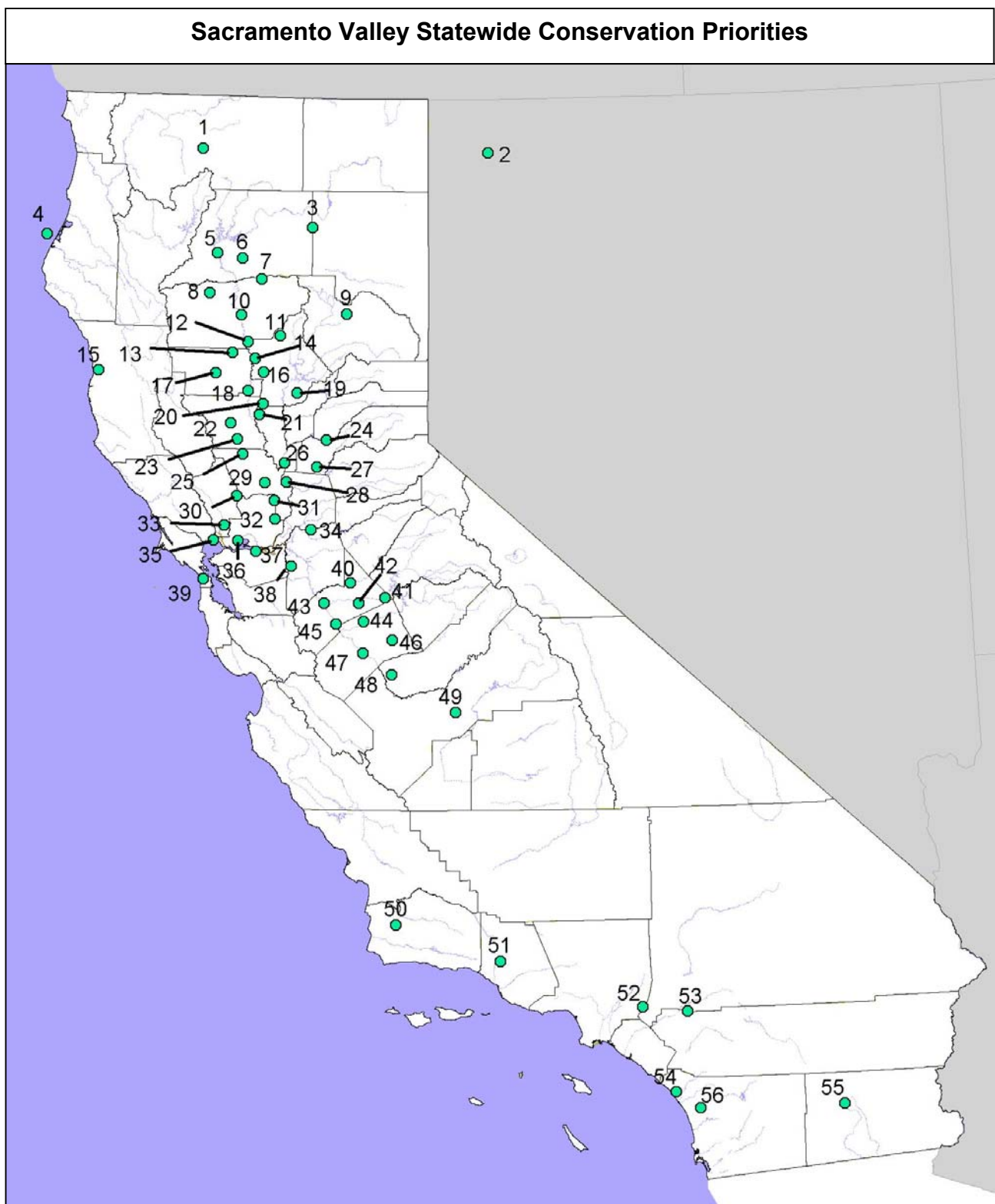


Figure 4. Locations of Statewide Conservation Priorities identified by workshop participants for the Sacramento Valley.

Table 5. Statewide Conservation Priorities identified by workshop participants for the Sacramento Valley region.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Source of Information	Affiliation ⁹
1	Shasta River & Scott River	Siskiyou	Cattle ranching and agricultural diversions impair these important salmonid waterways	Restoration & conservation	Brady Moss	Trust for Public Land
2	Statewide	7 counties		Regulatory streamlining and simplification for river related activities	Burt Bundy	
3	Statewide	All	Provide stable personnel to assist private landowners	State funding to support voluntary Resource Conservation District leadership	Thomas Wehri	California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
4	North Coast	Del Norte/ Humboldt/ Mendocino	Need artificial reefs to enhance fisheries	Build artificial reefs	Ron Davis	
5	Statewide	All	Needs to be non-regulatory and available for assistance	Regional coordinators to work with State & Federal Agencies & Programs	Thomas Wehri	California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
6	All	Shasta & All others	Huge investment in fuelbreak creation, will be non-functional without maintenance	Grants for maintenance to Coordinated Resource Management Plans, Resource Conservation Districts, Fire Safe Councils	Stuart Gray	Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
7	All	Shasta & All others	Ensured success of Wildlife Management Areas to keep noxious weed control efforts moving forward	Funding for Wildlife Management Area coordinators (full or part time)	Stuart Gray	Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
8	Cottonwood Creek	Tehama/ Shasta	Red-legged frog; neotropical migratory birds	Surveys (for Red Legged Frog) habitat restoration & conservation	Myrnie Mayville	US Bureau of Reclamation
9	Forests	Forested Counties	Mountain lion conservation	Mapping wildlife conflict incidence; analysis of impact of changing forest practices on deer and lion habitat, deer migration, depredation	Michelle Cullens	Mountain Lion Foundation
10	Sacramento River Corridor	Multiple	Sensitive species; recreation	Preservation; conservation; restoration	Woody Elliott	CA Department of Parks & Recreation
11	Mill Creek	Tehama	Long term fisheries monitoring			Burt Bundy
12	Sacramento River, River Miles 145 - 245	Tehama/ Glenn/ Butte/ Colusa	Meandering section of river still supports many wildlife species	Fee title purchase of lands adjacent to river channel	Steve Greco	University of California, Davis
13	Sacramento Valley		Rural living; agriculture based communities; economically viable agriculture & environmentally sound agriculture; policy development founded on science (objective science)	Preserve ample allocations of land/ water resourced to preserve agriculture. Support for technology development so better options are available for both agricultural & ecological management. Support for third party investigation & peer review processes.	Allan Fulton	University of California Cooperative Extension
14	Sacramento River		Fish; wildlife; water	Restoration; program to encourage private landowners to protect riparian areas		Greg Golet; Burt Bundy

⁹. Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization. Contact information for participants available in Appendix D.

Table 5 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Source of Information	Affiliation ⁹
15	North Coastal Ranges	Humboldt/ Mendocino/ Sonoma	Remaining ancient redwood forest areas	More protective legislation better; cooperation with loggers & US Forest Service & regulators	Al Fernandez	US Air Force, Beale
16		Butte	Healthy groundwater basin	Monitoring; aquifer recharge identification; protection of recharge areas; environmental monitoring during water transfers	Barbara Vlamis	Butte Environmental Council
17	Alluvial plain between Sacramento River & foothills	Multiple	Unique landscape; sensitive species	Preservation; conservation; restoration	Woody Elliott	CA Department of Parks & Recreation
18	Sacramento River Mainstem	Colusa/ Butte/ Glenn	Riparian habitat	Conserve all existing native riparian habitat & restore riparian habitat within levees (& beyond?)	Myrnie Mayville	US Bureau of Reclamation
19	Oroville	Butte	Watershed	Restoration for tribal community	Ren Reynolds	Enterprise Rancheria
20	Sutter Buttes	Sutter	Unique landscape	Preservation; conservation	Woody Elliott	CA Department of Parks & Recreation
21	Sacramento Valley		Waterbody health; pollution problems	Monitoring & Total Maximum Daily Loads	Barbara Vlamis	Butte Environmental Council
22	Entire valley area	All	Lack of data for decisions	Complete survey of aquatic insects	Dwight Holford	Sacramento River Watershed Program
23	Entire valley area	All	Lack of integrated data	One overall data czar	Dwight Holford	Sacramento River Watershed Program
24	Rocklin, Roseville area	Placer	Wetlands; wildlife habitat	Public education; smart growth	Kristen Christopherson	US Air Force
25	Entire valley area	All	Poor areas receive no help	Equitable funding for Resource Conservation District to do conservation work	Dwight Holford	Sacramento River Watershed Program
26	Sacramento Valley	All	Conserve farmland	State zoning cooperation with county planning	Ron Davis	
27	Throughout States	Corridor Areas	Assuring effective wildlife corridors	Mapping incidence of wildlife/ human conflicts in relation to existing, proposed, and nascent wildlife corridors	Michelle Cullens	Mountain Lion Foundation
28	Sutter Bypass	Sutter	Existing floodplain area	Acquire orchards up to Highway 99 to protect floodplain and avoid urban development	Elizabeth Peterson	Dept. of Water Resources
29	University of California, Davis	Statewide		Partner with the University of California in curriculum, research & outreach on sustainable agriculture systems & practices		
30	Western Yolo County	Yolo	Real estate parcelization; rising land costs	Fund conservation easements or term easements	Casey Stone	Yolo County Farm Bureau
31	Central Valley	Multiple	Rezoning vernal pool areas	Preservation/ restoration/ conservation through better strategic regional planning	Al Fernandez	US Air Force, Beale
32	Lower elevation watersheds	Valley Counties	Mountain lion conservation	Exploration of remnant mountain lion populations in lower elevation riparian zones. loss of predator impacts, trophic cascades	Michelle Cullens	Mountain Lion Foundation

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Table 5 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Source of Information	Affiliation ⁹
33	Carquinez Strait	Solano/ Contra Costa	Only geologic strait in Western hemisphere connecting delta & bay; has regional resource management plan	Land acquisition; reclaim wetlands for restoration, trails, education	Elizabeth Peterson	Dept. of Water Resources
34	Central Valley		Vernal pool landscape	Easements & acquisitions	Barbara Vlamis	Butte Environmental Council
35	San Pablo Bay	Tri-county	Needs more freshwater	Direct less northern water to south	Ron Davis	
36	Delta	San Joaquin/ Solano		Implement plans already proposed	David Dewey	
37	Delta			Restoration	Dawit Zeleke	The Nature Conservancy
38	Delta	San Joaquin	Very fertile agricultural land, not yet urbanized - great chance to protect the area		Jenny Lester	American Farmland Trust
39	City of San Francisco	San Francisco	Where are the streams? Running through storm drains? Why? Bad urban design	Daylight the streams of San Francisco	Brady Moss	Trust for Public Land
40	Stanislaus River	San Joaquin/ Stanislaus	Meandering section of river still supports many wildlife species	Fee title purchase of lands adjacent to river channel	Steve Greco	University of California, Davis
41	Tuolumne River		Water; salmon	Control gravel mining & flows	Dawit Zeleke	The Nature Conservancy
42	West of Modesto	Stanislaus	Very fertile soils that are being paved over (as in much of eastern part of the Valley)	Regional plan for Highway 99 corridor	Jenny Lester	American Farmland Trust
43	Upper San Joaquin	Fresno/ Tulare/ Merced	High proportion of small farms in intensive agriculture area	Investment in stewardship practices: integrated pest management, organics, cover cropping, etc.	Desmond Lopez	Small Farm Center, University of California, Davis
44	Private lands	Sacramento & San Joaquin Valley Co.s	Provide umbrella goals for area landowners	Resource plans developed by local leadership on US military bases	Thomas Wehri	California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
45	San Joaquin River	Fresno/ Madera/ Merced/ Stanislaus/ San Joaquin	Meandering section of river still supports many wildlife species	Fee title purchase of lands adjacent to river channel	Steve Greco	University of California, Davis
46	Merced grasslands		Grasslands; vernal pools; large intact landscape	Conservation easements; compatible land use; grazing	Dawit Zeleke	The Nature Conservancy
47	San Joaquin River	Stanislaus/ San Joaquin/ Merced	Water quality; farm lands; floodplain; water supply	Acquire San Joaquin River corridor lands	Elizabeth Peterson	Dept. of Water Resources
48	Madera Ranch, 13,600 acres	Madera	Native valley floor habitat (of which there is little remaining in San Joaquin); listed species: BNL Lizard, Kit Fox, Kangaroo Rat	Fee title/ conservation easement acquisition	Myrnie Mayville	US Bureau of Reclamation
49	South of Fresno	Fresno	Some of the most fertile agricultural land in the world	More public outreach for farmland protection	Jenny Lester	American Farmland Trust
50	Lompoc	Santa Barbara	Burton Mesa chaparral (rare plant community)	Limit development; public education	Kristen Christopherson	US Air Force
51	Ventura River Watershed	Ventura	The Matilija dam is approved 95% clogged. Anadramous fish habitat is blocked and the downstream area impaired	Restore the Ventura River & Matilija Creek watershed; remove the dysfunctional dam	Brady Moss	Trust for Public Land

⁹ Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization. Contact information for participants available in Appendix D.

Table 5 cont'd.

Dot #	Location	County	Importance	Needed Action	Source of Information	Affiliation ⁹
52	Los Angeles Basin	Multiple Southern California Counties	Watershed; flood basin	Better watershed management & flood control	Al Fernandez	US Air Force, Beale
53	Riverside area	Riverside	Wetlands; wildlife habitat	Smart growth	Kristen Christopherson	US Air Force
54	Statewide	Multiple	Preserve military operations as defense & economic assets	Various means of preventing urban encroachment: acquisition, easement	Mark Braly	Office of Economic Adjustment, Department of Defense
55	Salton Sea	Imperial	Vital for migratory waterfowl	More water, less salt	David Dewey	
56	Coastal Communities	San Diego	Coastal sage scrub; Chaparral disappearing	Less development; shut off water	David Dewey	

⁹. Source of information only. Does not necessarily represent a formal priority of organization. Contact information for participants available in Appendix D.

IV. MESSAGES TO MARY D. NICHOLS, SECRETARY FOR RESOURCES

At the close of the workshop, participants were asked what messages they would like the Legacy Project staff to relay to Mary D. Nichols, Secretary for Resources. The following is an edited transcription of the participants' comments:

Ensure that this program [Legacy] doesn't dictate local activities but supports local efforts.

The speaker asks, "How many years will we have to wait for better education on problems of continued high population growth?"

Too much money is being spent on 'processes' [regulatory process] and not enough on solutions. Conflicts are being rationalized. CEQA, NEPA, ESA, etc. should not be sacred cows. Re-examine regulations to make them work better.

It seems that there should be more coordination between Resources Agency departments.

The speaker notes that participants keep hearing about Farm Bill opportunities, but asks whether there is really more than a "trickle" of money available for California? [Jay Chamberlin, Legacy Project's Private Stewardship Coordinator, answered that the small amounts that now come to the state could be increased if we enhance the institutional capabilities for garnering more of California's fair share. Madelyn Glickfeld, Legacy Project Director, noted that we're working with CalEPA and Dept. of Agriculture, plus the Natural Resources Conservation Service in a more effective manner to improve that institutional process for getting a larger share of the federal farm pie].

The speaker asks whether the Great Valley Center involved in this effort? [Madelyn Glickfeld, Legacy Project Director, answered 'Yes, but in a limited way'.]

The speaker asks Madelyn Glickfeld, Legacy Project Director, what she meant by saying "Agriculture is important for its own sake"? [Madelyn Glickfeld answered that it was in context of the ranking results that she saw in our 'Working Lands-Farms' breakout group session. Land is important for agricultural values alone as well as for ecological values.]

The speaker expressed thanks for the workshop, saying 'I just wanted to say how much I appreciate the [Legacy] staff. They are extremely articulate and really handled a variety of different issues and people in a very fair manner.'

V. FINAL REPORT

The Legacy Project will place an interim report from each workshop on the Legacy Project website, once it has been reviewed by participants for accuracy. The project will also further examine the existing and emerging plans, suggested conservation priorities and strategies, and the proposed places for priority investment in the region. The Legacy Project will produce a final report summarizing results from all nine workshops late in 2003. The report will be available on the website or by mail for review by all interested parties, and will be

the basis for future dialogue with stakeholders. A final wrap-up session will be held July 16, 2003 in Sacramento. Information and analyses from these workshops will be shared with Resources Agency departments, boards and conservancies to assist them in their conservation investment decision-making. Workshop results will also be applied in developing better data and planning-support tools and information for stakeholders across the state.

APPENDIX A

WORKSHOP LOGISTICS

The invitation process

The Legacy Project and its consultants identified a wide range of stakeholders from throughout the region to provide as much balance in geographic distribution as possible for the Sacramento Valley workshop. The compilation of the invitation list and acceptance of registrations was accomplished with the help of many people. The practical logistics of the effort are summarized as follows:

- The workshop regions were developed based on the California Biodiversity Council Bioregions of the State.
- Approximately 90 Advisory Committee members from public agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations, and the private sector were consulted to suggest potential candidates for the Sacramento Valley workshop.
- The list was carefully reviewed and balanced for categorical inclusion and regional representation. We included a wide variety of stakeholders from public agencies to private landowners, from environmental groups to agricultural interests. Further, we continually reviewed the geographic representation, working by counties, and increased the outreach to underrepresented areas.

- More than 200 invitation letters were mailed. RSVPs were received either by phone, postcard or e-mail.
- The respondent lists were reviewed for balance in category and geographic representation, and the follow up outreach focused on underrepresented groups.

Pre-workshop packets

- As the RSVP responses were received, pre-workshop packets were subsequently mailed out.
- The packets contained detailed information on the locations, agenda, the discussion group process, and a detailed description of the Information Exchange.

Workshop participation

- There were 87 participants and observers over the course of the day-and-a-half workshop.



California Legacy Project “Spotlight on Conservation” Sacramento Valley workshop

AGENDA

**Holiday Inn
Chico, CA**

APRIL 8: DAY 1

*The California
Resources
Agency*

Sponsors

Platinum:

*California
Department of
Parks and
Recreation*

*CA OHV
Recreation
Division*

*Trust for Public
Land*

*The Wildlands
Conservancy*

*US Geological
Survey*

Gold:

*State Parks
Foundation*

*Bureau Land
Management*

Silver:

*Defenders of
Wildlife*

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1:00 pm | Welcome by:
The Honorable Maureen Kirk , <i>Mayor, City of Chico</i> ;
Stacy Cepello , <i>Senior Environmental Scientist, California Department of Water Resources</i> ;
Luree Stetson , <i>Deputy Secretary for Environmental Programs, California Resources Agency</i> |
| 1:30 | Introductions and workshop overview. |
| 1:45 | Presentation and discussion of the Legacy Project:
Madelyn Glickfeld , <i>Assistant Secretary, The Resources Agency, California Legacy Project.</i> |
| 2:30 | Break |
| 2:45 | Presentation by Diana Jacobs, Ph.D. , <i>Deputy Director, Science Advisor, California Department of Fish & Game</i> : “CALFED, the Legacy Project, and other State and Federal Programs.” |
| 3:15 | Brainstorm session on established and emerging conservation plans, regional challenges, risks and opportunities.
Objective: To gain a sense of the unique characteristics of the region and how they affect conservation efforts. |
| 4:15 | Description of 1 st small-group exercise on developing criteria used for conservation planning. |
| 4:30 | Information Exchange; light buffet.
Objective: To share information on natural resources and conservation in the region. |
| 6:30 pm | Adjourn |



California Legacy Project
Sacramento Valley
“Spotlight on Conservation” workshop

AGENDA

APRIL 9: DAY 2

- 8:00 am** Information Exchange; Continental breakfast.
- 8:30** Introduction to 2nd day's activities; Brief review of 1st day; Review of small-group exercise on “conservation criteria.”
- 8:45** Small-group session: “Identifying regional conservation criteria”
Objective: To gain a sense of criteria that participants would use for determining investments in conservation of various resources (terrestrial biodiversity; aquatic biodiversity, riparian habitats and watersheds; farming and grazing lands; urban open space; and rural recreation).
- 10:45** Break
- 11:15** Large-group session; ranking the importance of the criteria established by the small groups.
Objective: To allow participants to hear what each group decided and have the chance to rank the relative importance of the various criteria established by the small groups.
- 12:15 pm** Information Exchange; buffet lunch
- 1:15** “Potential Uses of the California Digital Conservation Atlas” – Marc Hoshovsky, California Department of Fish & Game.
- 1:45** Explanation of afternoon small-group session
- 1:55** Second small-group session: “Strategies that support resource conservation and economic needs”
Objective: To gain a sense of those conservation priorities and specific strategies that can offer mutual benefit to conservation and local economies.
- 3:15** Report on workshop results: *Comments and issues that will be conveyed back to the California Resources Secretary, Mary Nichols.*
- 4:00 pm** Adjourn

APPENDIX B

METHODOLOGY FOR WEIGHTING REGIONAL CONSERVATION CRITERIA

Once the small group identified criteria for each of the resource categories, they edited, simplified, and refined them. In the large group, facilitators presented each of the criteria. For each resource category, participants ranked all of the criteria, numbering them from highest to lowest priority (1=highest priority). Our process of criteria ranking purposefully does not ask participants to express priority between different resource types (e.g., aquatic biodiversity criteria aren't ranked against working lands criteria). Rather, participants are only asked to express priority within a given resource category (e.g., the identified aquatic biodiversity criteria are ranked against one another).

Based on the full group's scores, a relative level of priority is then determined for each criterion. The process for determining relative priority is as follows: For each criterion, all of participants' scores are summed. Once the values for each criterion are totaled, a "percent rank of total score" is calculated. The criteria with the maximum total score is be given a 100% and all other scores are given a percentage relative to that maximum score. A model for extracting "natural breaks" is then used to group the relative percent scores into three classes (low, medium, and high priority). The Jenk's Model extracts "natural breaks" between the relative percent scores by grouping them into 3 classes in which the sum of each group's variance is minimized.

APPENDIX C

INFORMATION EXCHANGE DATA

AVAILABLE DATA & DATA NEEDS			
		<p>** Approximation only--refer to original physical maps, archived with Legacy Project, for exact location</p>	
		C = correction	N = needed
		AV = available	

Data	Comment	Location**	Source of information
AV	Department of Water Resources has floodplain maps more accurate than FEMA. See Floodplain Management Task Report (DWR December 2002). They are also working on awareness maps.		
AV/ N	State should establish an Index of Biological Integrity (IBI). Has data on benthic macroinvertebrates on Upper Putah Creek (9 stations) & reports on Benthic Macroinvertebrate Index on Upper Putah Creek. 319 (h) grant.	Upper Putah Creek	Dwight Holford
N/ AV	Would like to see the following data developed: 1) vegetation mapping of the state (3 – 5) meter resolution, especially of creeks. Vegetation mapping should be classified using California Native Plant Society Alliances. 2) Topography data for the Central Valley at 2 –3 feet contour interval. 3) A GIS layer of all creeks and rivers in the state at mapping scale 1:24000 (all the blue lines). He has data on Sacramento River Riparian vegetation and land cover mapping from Colusa to Red Bluff (River Mile 145 – 245)	Statewide, Central Valley	Steve Greco, UC Davis
AV	They have a Sacramento River vegetation mapping layer and riparian mapping of the river. Data is made by the GIC (Geographic Information Center)	Sacramento River Valley	Chuck Nelson
AV	Has data on Catalina Island, Conservation easement and lands owned by Los Angeles County	Los Angeles County/ Catalina Island	Tim Galligher
AV/N	Would like to see data on rare species /CNDDDB data. Has data on public lands around the main stem of the Sacramento River from public access and recreation study.	Sacramento River Valley	Greg Golet
AV/N	Would like to see data on privately owned conservation easements held by USFWS, WCB, NRCS (wetland & floodplain). Contact for data is Chris Ball.		Rob Capriola

INFORMATION EXCHANGE DATA CONT'D

Data	Comment	Location**	Source of information
AV/N	Would like to see data on conservation easements on private lands. Has statewide data showing WRP and floodplain easements.	Statewide	Jessica Groves
C/AV	Noted that the Stone Lakes National wildlife refuge and Liberty Island areas are mapped incorrectly. Lori has ownership data o these areas. Her contact for the data is Molly Penberth at the Department of Conservation	Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge/ Liberty Island	Lori Clamurro
N	Would like to see a list of data we currently have available		Angi Orlandella
AV	Has data on riparian habitat layers- no district, floodplain awareness maps (Flood Plain Management Branch-Sacramento) Contact is Ming Chang		Bonnie Ross
N	Would like to see soil survey maps developed by NRCS (National Resource Conservation Service)		Tom Wehri
AV/N	Would like to see farmland distinctions in the Chico area not representative of reality (Prime soils, Orchards, Rice). Talk to NRCS/RCD for data available	Chico	John Merz
AV/N	Glenn County Planning would like to receive a list of data layers we have available. He has data on lands in Williamson Act.		Mandy Thomas
AV	State Parks is in the process of developing general plans. Has data on the Bidwell- Sacramento River State Park.	Sacramento	Woody Elliot
N	Would like to know the release date for the impaired streams and water bodies layer.		Marc Horney

APPENDIX D

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

	Last Name	First Name	Title	Affiliation	Address	City, State	Phone	Email
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